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Islamic Affairs

ICO Secretary General Condemns Israeli Attacks

LD2607200593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1907 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Jeddah 26 July 93 (SPA)—Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Dr. Hamid Algabid has strongly condemned the recent savage Israeli aggression against Lebanese territories and Palestinian refugee camps therein, which have claimed a number of martyrs, left many people injured, and caused great material damage. He reiterated, in a statement published today, the member countries' support for brotherly Lebanon and the Palestinian people in their legitimate and just struggle to regain their rights and for the prevailing of justice, peace, and stability in the Middle East. He urged the Security Council to do something to immediately stop such aggressions and to take the necessary measures in order to fully implement Resolution 425, which guarantees an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Lebanese territories.

Dr. Algabid pointed out that such aggressions, which are being carried out on the eve of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region in order to give new momentum to the peace process, shows anew Israel's aggressive and expansionist policies and its attempts to abort the peace process and hinder its progress and success. He furthermore urged the international community to bring pressure to bear upon Israel in order to force it to end its aggressive and expansionist policies and compel it to deal sincerely and honestly with the peace process that started in Madrid upon the bases of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace, the right of the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable national and political rights, and the withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Condemns Israeli Raids in South Lebanon

JN2607182993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] In Tunis, PLO Spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman has stated that the Israeli attack has dealt a back-breaking blow to the peace process.

He said that the PLO condemns the barbaric aggression the Israeli Army is carrying out against the Lebanese and Palestinian civilians, and against the Syrian Army in Lebanon. The Palestinian spokesman emphasized that the new Israeli aggression on Lebanon is the fruit of the U.S. policy of support for Israel and clearly shows that the the Israeli cabinet is a war cabinet and not a peace cabinet.

Peace Talks Delegates Comment on IDF Operation

TA2607131393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks have been holding consultations today. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that what is happening in Lebanon endangers the peace process, which makes her far less optimistic than the Israeli spokesmen. The Palestinians have been holding consultations in anticipation of Secretary Christopher's arrival in the Middle East. Our correspondent in the territories Moti Amir reports:

[Begin recording] [Amir] The Palestinian street shows a near understanding of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in the north. On the personal level, there is concern for family members there and fear that an escalation in Lebanon will result in a total freeze in the peace talks. Samih Kan'an, member of the Palestinian delegation and a Nabulus resident:

[Kan'an] The people listen to the radio, hear the news, and worry that the situation in Lebanon might escalate. They are not very pleased with the events there. We are in a state of making peace, and there is war going on. This might harm the peace process.

[Amir] No special incidents that might have indicated the residents' rage were noted in the territories yesterday and today. Samih Kan'an arrived this morning at the Palestinian delegation offices in the Orient House building in East Jerusalem for consultations with the other delegates. Faysal al-Husayni conferred with some of the leaders of the Palestinian opposition to the peace process. A meeting of some of the delegates was held at the same time in another hall in the building. They discussed the peace process in preparation for the arrival to the region of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

[Hanan 'Ashrawi, in English] Well, they are preparing. There are intensive consultations, meetings, and talks here and in Tunis. And I am sure we will be fully prepared when he comes.

[Amir translates and continues] Regarding IDF's Operation Accountability in Lebanon, Dr. 'Ashrawi is very adamant: Israel is harming the peace process.

['Ashrawi, in English] I think this seriously jeopardizes the peace process and creates an atmosphere of instability and conflict, and does not serve the interests of any party. If there is a serious commitment to peace, then you cannot conduct military options when you have chosen negotiations as the solution. [end recording]

Fatah Official Berates U.S. Stance on Attacks

NC2707102493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0949 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah has stated that the Israeli bombardment of Palestinian camps in south Lebanon is a continuation of Israel's war of extermination against the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, al-Qidrah criticized the U.S. Administration's position vis-a-vis the war of extermination against the Palestinians, declaring that Israel's actions are a mark of shame on the U.S. Administration's record. He said this administration is driving the last nail in the coffin of the new world order.

Al-Qidrah remarked that this world order concerns the U.S. Administration only as it protects its interests and those of its friends, notably Israel. He said that by doing this the United States loses its credibility before the whole world.

Commentary: Attacks Put Peace Process at Risk

LD2607212493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] All are agreed on one thing—namely, escalating the situation between Lebanon and Israel means placing new obstacles along the road of the negotiations, and striving to frustrate the peace process and possibly destroying the last opportunity to realize peace and bring the Arab-Israeli conflict to an end. [passage omitted]

Israeli military operations in southern Lebanon and the casualties and displacement of the population they have caused, mean that Israel still believes in the language of force and using its military superiority to realize its objectives.

This policy strives to abort all the initiatives that seek to reactivate the negotiations and put them on their proper course. The military operations also come at a time when Washington—the cosponsor of the peace conference—has been trying to close the gap between the Arabs and Israel and trying to build confidence between the sides to the conflict.

There is no doubt that Christopher has been disturbed by the news at a time when he is getting ready for his coming tour, arranging the papers and the proposals prior to taking earnest steps toward activating the peace process.

One question remains here. Is Israel worried about the new ideas Christopher might be putting forward? Perhaps this is why it wants the climate in the area to become charged with tension and the clouds of war hanging over the area during his visit. This is why it wants to pay attention to marginal issues and not to what is important and what constitutes the heart of the negotiations.

What does Christopher have in his briefcase that arouses Israeli fears, and is there any intention on the part of Washington to resume the dialogue with the PLO, and are there ideas that concern an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon in return for a peace treaty with Syria and Lebanon?

We do not want to overtake events or to be over optimistic. But what is the meaning of Israel's insistence in heightening tension in southern Lebanon and forming situations which make it impossible to continue the negotiations? It all means that Israel still getting deeper in its policy of no peace with the Arabs. In Israel's opinion the conflict must continue, and any opportunity to realize stability—which the area has not had for decades—must not be seized.

Therefore, the American Administration must check the Israeli military rashness and it must stop Israel from continuing its military operations against southern Lebanon. The Arab sides taking part in the negotiations cannot remain silent about what is happening in Lebanon. An attack on any Arab side renders the negotiations ineffective, and the Arab regimes which must in the end face their peoples cannot justify going to the negotiations as if these Israeli operations against Lebanon and Lebanese sovereignty over its soil are merely a Lebanese affair.

While Washington tries to dictate its terms to the Arab sides, Washington ought to put an end to the logic of force, which Israel insists on following.

Radio Denounces Israel's 'Criminal War' in Lebanon

JN2607185693 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: Arab and international reports confirm that the [word indistinct] Israeli aggression on Lebanon that has been going one for two days now is the fiercest since Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon in 1982. The aim of the Israeli air, land, and sea aggression on Lebanese villages and cities and Palestinian camps in the south and the north is to subjugate the Lebanese and Palestinian national resistance forces. Most of the victims and martyrs are women and children. Five Syrian soldiers were also killed in al-Biq'a. Despite this, a Syrian official stated that as long as Israel's shelling does not hurt Syrian forces, Syria will not interfere.

For its part, the international legitimacy [words indistinct] when it comes to taking a stand toward Israel's aggression. In talk similar to that of the Syrian official, the international legitimacy hints that it is not concerned over the aggression as long as it is directed only at

villages, camps, and the positions of the Lebanese and Palestinian national resistance forces and as long as it does not hurt the forces of states committed to the conditions of the new world order.

It is an all-out war in terms of the equipment and troops, being launched against peaceful villages and camps, which have no defensive weapons. Despite this, the Security Council does not see in this criminal war any reason to speak up, to take a position, to make a decision, or even to voice its condemnation to defend its reputation, role, credibility, and the credibility of its legitimacy.

Regarding the Arab League, it did nothing but strongly condemn the aggression, God be praised, just as the Syrian official did. So, the air, land, and sea aggression does not affect anyone as long as the victims are not the people of the new world order? The question is: How long will this double standard, this arrogance, and this ugly aggression continue? How long will Arab defeatism, impotence, and fragmentation, which provide the best climate for the continuation of aggression on our people and Arab nation, particularly on the fortresses of our steadfastness and the symbols of our dignity in Iraq and Palestine, continue? How long will this division, defeatism, and impotence, which are encouraging hostile Zionists and Americans to commit more crimes against our people, continue? The criminal souls come out of their shackles if they are not deterred. Arab deterrence is reached only through restoring amity, solidarity, unity, and Arab consciousness, and through faith in pan-Arab security, in joint interests, and in the one fate of the whole nation. When will this take place?

PFLP, DFLP Denounce Aggression Against Lebanon

JN2607132193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have called on the Arab states participating in the multilateral committees to withdraw from these committees to protest the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. The two fronts also urged these states to boycott the talks until the end of the aggression against Lebanon and the end of the siege imposed on the occupied territories, until the settlement activities are halted, and until Israel declares its abidance by the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The statement issued by the two fronts in Damascus urged the UN Security Council to take measures to counter the aggression and to abandon the double-standard policy. The statement also denounced the United States' silence and flagrant bias in favor of Israel.

Hamas Condemns Raids, Urges PLO Pullout From Talks

JN2707105093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Jul 93 p 22

[Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, issued a statement yesterday in which it said: The aggression against Lebanon, which is expanding and becoming more barbaric, could be a prelude to a new invasion of Lebanese territory. This aggression aims at achieving the Zionist objective of striking at the Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon, curbing its jihad, and expanding the so-called security zone which is under the control of Lahd's agent militias. It also aims at protecting Zionist settlements from katyushas and closing the last jihad front outside Palestine.

Hamas called on the Arab and Islamic nation to support the fraternal Lebanese people and its militant forces in their confrontation against the Zionist aggression and to deal with the event with all its serious dimensions. Hamas also called on the negotiating Arab parties, particularly the delegation of the PLO leadership, to withdraw from the talks as a natural response to the Zionist practices. [passage omitted]

Negotiating Team Prepares for Christopher Visit

JN2607111493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jul 93 pp 28, 24

[Excerpt] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, led a meeting for the negotiating team in Bayt al-Sharq in Jerusalem on Thursday and Friday [22 and 23 July] in preparation for the coming visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Palestinian sources close to the negotiating team in Jerusalem told AL-RA'Y that the three-session meeting focused on the results of the 10th round of talks, the stand toward the U.S. paper, and the results of the talks with Dennis Ross during his recent tour of the region.

The sources noted that the following two trends emerged at this meeting:

The first trend, led by Chief Delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, is supported by the members of the delegation from Gaza and some delegates from the West Bank, particularly Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, Dr. Sa'ib 'Uraqat, and others. This trend calls for sticking to the stand crystallized by the PLO Executive Committee during its recent meeting in Tunis. This stand calls for rejecting the U.S. paper and any dealing with it because it reflects the Israeli stand vis-a-vis the terms of reference of the talks, the arrangements for the interim period, Jerusalem, settlements, and security issues. This trend warns against those who call for dealing with this paper in coordination with the Egyptian administration through introducing new formulas.

The second trend, led by Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian delegation, is supported by Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Sami Kilani, Samih Kan'an, and others. This trend calls for showing flexibility toward the U.S. Administration and its proposals.

The sources noted that al-Husayni has exaggerated the forms of blackmailing practiced by Dennis Ross, during his recent tour, and his claims that the U.S. Administration does not have more time to waste in the Middle East and that if no progress was achieved in the talks, the U.S. Administration would give priority in its foreign policy to other areas.

The sources added that al-Husayni has justified amending the U.S. paper under many pretexts, including maintaining U.S. concern for the peace process. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat Urges Talks on Final Settlement

TA2607150393 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 26 Jul 93 p 5

[By Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the negotiating delegation: "Immediate Talks On A Final Settlement Are Imperative"]

[Text] The Dennis Ross mission in the area is over. It is possible that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit soon. Before the Ross mission began, during and even before the 10th round began, some 50 hours of talks took place between Palestinian and American officials. So what is happening? What is the nature of the debate? Is it possible to bridge the gaps?

The talks are centered around a declaration of joint principles by the Palestinians and the Israelis. The disagreement is about the issue of the sovereignty over the land, the question of Jerusalem, and American intervention. Instead of the gap being bridged by the talks, it was widened further, very noticeably.

The American draft proposal of June 30 contains many disturbingly dangerous points. It spoke of the right of any side to claim sovereignty over the land in the final settlement. It is saying that the Palestinian occupied lands are to be considered "disputed territory." This means that U.N. Resolution 242 underlines very clearly that the seizure of territory by forces is inadmissible. The American document also says that every side has the right to set forth its own case, which includes the issue of the final settlement over Jerusalem.

From this we can gather how the American approach has widened, rather than narrowed, the gap between the sides. Naturally, the PLO rejected the American proposals, issuing instructions to us that they should not be considered a basis for negotiation. The instructions were to focus on two issues only: the issue of Jerusalem and the issue of sovereignty over the land. This is what was discussed in the latest meetings with the American team.

Once the Palestinian side had presented its case, the American side responded, insisting quite frankly on the necessity of treating the American proposals as a basis for further talks. They asked for comments and formulations on everything proposed in the draft, and not only those points dealing with Jerusalem and the sovereignty over the land.

In other words, there is no change in the American position.

Once again, they raised the issue of the early transfer of authority; i.e., before any agreement is reached. This is exactly what the Palestinian side has altogether rejected. We considered that the step would lead to fragmentation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It would bypass the issue of sovereignty over the land. It meant a retreat from the idea of holding general political elections in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Thus Palestinian negotiators find themselves confronting an American position that has adapted the Israeli point of view. Matters have reached a point that is very different from the point at which matters had started out at Madrid. The concept of an interim period has now began to crumble. After 20 months of negotiations, the Palestinian leadership may have succeeded in bringing to light the truth about the Israeli-American position, which proves how urgent it is for the talks to shift from negotiations over an interim settlement to those of the final settlement.

If this evaluation is correct, this means more than just change in the Madrif formula. It would mean a change in the negotiation strategy of the Palestinians. There is the aspect of confederation with Jordan as one of the options in Palestinian-Jordanian relations within the framework of a final settlement. Once we will have proceeded from the interim to the final settlement, this will also necessitate changes in overall Arab coordination, especially since the basis common to all Arab positions is the principle of the exchange of land for peace, in accordance with U.N. Resolution 242 regarding Syria, Palestine, Jordan, and, in the case of Lebanon, Resolution 425.

In addition, we have to study how this will affect the balance of inter-Arab relations, and its implications on greater involvement by the international community in the peace process, especially that of Europe and Japan.

We should keep in mind that, once we will have put the interim period behind us, Israel will submit ideas on what it understands by regional concessions. Israel will discuss the terms of U.N. Resolution 242 in terms of withdrawal from "territories" rather than all of the occupied territories. In other words, it will open up a new chapter in which partial annexation will become the issue.

At any rate, no matter how much change is brought into this process—including that of the changeover from the partial to the final settlement—by no means does this

mean that we are coming out of th tunnel. This tunnel may be even darker than the one we have been negotiating in for the past 20 months.

'Ashrawi Gives Views on Role of Delegation

TA2607154993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Jul 93 pp 1, 15

[By Rashid Hilal and Sa'idah Hamad]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokesperson of the Palestinian delegation, emphasized that the basic aim of the negotiating process is direct and permanent PLO participation. She explained that the nature of the Palestinian delegation's relationship with the PLO is an assignment by the latter of a specified negotiating task.

'Ashrawi added that the Palestinian delegation has had to assume more responsibility than any other delegation because of the rupture between it and the political leaderships inside the occupied territories and its contacts with the PLO abroad. The delegation assumed the responsibility of presenting and interpreting the political positions to the average Palestinian and of talking directly with Palestinian public opinion in accordance with Palestinian political instructions. Despite this, we always said that the delegation does not claim to be the decisionmaker, rather the PLO is the Palestinian decisionmaker.

Referring to the decisionmaking process, 'Ashrawi said that everyone must participate in decisionmaking, including the delegation, which she described as part of the decisionmaking and not only a recipient of instructions from the PLO. She added that this is a two-way rather than a one-way street.

Apparently, in reference to the PLO's bypassing of the delegation, 'Ashrawi said remonstratively that if persons are assigned to fulfill special duties they should have credibility and respect. She said that the delegation does not only fulfill a difficult mission, but has assumed many responsibilities under difficult circumstances. No delegation has assumed such a task. 'Ashrawi expressed her appreciation and gratitude to the delegation for bearing so much inconvenience and trouble.

'Ashrawi considered excluding the members of the delegation from negotiating problems and tasks that are at the heart of its mission to be a mistake.

'Ashrawi pointed to the link between the Palestinian delegation as a negotiating delegation and the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, who are languishing under the occupation. She stressed that one way or another, the delegation has come to represent the Palestinians inside the occupied territories. This is something that we did not want and struggled against.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Need for National Leadership, Self-Criticism

TA2607174293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Jul 93 pp 1, 15

[Report on interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the negotiating delegation, by Sa'ud Abu-Ramadan in Gaza on 25 July]

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has defended his recent message to the Palestinian people in which he criticized the PLO's current situation and explained the reasons that led him to issue this message. He said: "We are now heading toward a dangerous stage. The negotiations failed to achieve any success during 10 rounds and Israel remains in control of the occupied territories. This has led to the creation of many developments and facts. We are now in need of constructive criticism. The Palestinians have not tried seriously to level any criticism and place it on the agenda of their national march. The other thing is that we have not had any national and democratic leadership."

'Abd-al-Shafi added: "Raising these issues separately will elicit a special interest. Everyone should act to have these issues realized. Therefore, I issued my message. Now I feel pleased because it has met with broad popular approval."

'Abd-al-Shafi said that there is unity among members of the Palestinian delegation, but this is not enough. The capabilities and options of our Palestinian people everywhere must be utilized.

'Abd-al-Shafi explained: "First and foremost, we do not have a cohesive leadership. My appeal sought to improve this on a democratic basis. I have called for a new makeup that would exploit all the capabilities of the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories. A proper leadership can manage affairs in a correct and useful manner and make practical decisions. I believe this is obvious. Collective views are more correct and better that individual ones."

'Abd-al-Shafi continued to defend his message by saying that the people have become disappointed with the peace process, because it has not achieved anything so far. Under these circumstances, the people are now ready to search for alternatives through the stance that I have suggested. I hope that we will be able to confront the present with this stance.

'Abd-al-Shafi, who was speaking at noon yesterday in his office at the Palestinian Red Crescent headquarters in Gaza, said: "I have not lost hope of changing the current situation, but I harbor a feeling of immense frustration because of the Israeli views which invite violence indirectly."

'Abd-al-Shafi added: "I hope a change will occur in the U.S. Government's position. We want to see what Christopher will bring with him in his upcoming tour. We

have to coordinate with our Arab brothers with regard to going to the next round of talks, although I believe that it is neither important nor useful to go to the next round."

As for the call for a comprehensive national dialogue, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: "I would like all Palestinian factions present in the arena, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to join. Therefore, I called for a comprehensive national dialogue. The question is whether Hamas is ready to accept the PLO decisions. Will it participate in the peace talks and join the PLO?"

'Abd-al-Shafi added: "My relationship with Hamas is linked to political developments. Sometimes it might be strong and sometimes weak. I believe that if the peace process succeeds, Hamas will lose a lot. As I said, Israel's stance is an indirect invitation to violence and to strengthening the front opposing the peace process."

Defending his message again, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: "I did not write this message to oppose individuals such as Yasir 'Arafat. However, I found myself obliged to say what is in my mind. Certainly, I did not write the message in a spirit of opposition. I hope the people will scrutinize those ideas and act accordingly. I will be happy if they understand every word in my message to them and the leadership."

Israeli MK Comments on Peace, Plans for Solution

NC2607175293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1307 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Tunis, 26 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah has affirmed that Egypt and President Husni Mubarak are performing a positive role and exerting concerted, serious, and national efforts to push the Middle East peace process forward.

Darawshah added in an exclusive interview with the MENA correspondent in Tunis today that Egypt is exerting immense efforts to push the peace process forward out of its desire to resolve this bloody dispute and allow the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate and national rights. [passage omitted]

Darawshah said he came to Tunis to continue discussions with the PLO leadership, exchange viewpoints, present ideas, and listen to new ideas. He added: I came here with Israeli Knesset Member Ya'el Dayan, who supports and is anxious for direct negotiations with the PLO, to clearly tell the Israeli and U.S. Governments and the whole world that the key to the problems is the PLO. Whoever wishes to accomplish peace with the Palestinians must talk directly with the PLO. Whoever wishes to establish peace with the Arab world must find a solution to the Palestine question by talking to the PLO.

Darawshah clarified that he does not represent the Israeli Government, but he presents ideas he believes in. At the same time, he is trying to push the peace process forward because there is now a possibility and golden opportunity under the current circumstances to reach agreement regarding the transitional period and establish the bases for the permanent solution to the Palestine question. He added that he does not want this opportunity to slip by as a result of the current obstacles.

As for the peace talks and the stalemate they have reached, Darawshah said that the negotiations have stumbled for two basic reasons. The first is the issue of Jerusalem and the second the territorial boundaries of the autonomy for the transitional period and the powers of the Palestinian Executive Council.

Darawshah clarified that Jerusalem is a sensitive issue for both sides. The Palestinian rights to Arab Jerusalem cannot be ignored. As a matter of principle, eastern Arab Jerusalem must be the capital of the state of Palestine, just as western Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. However, due to the sensitive topic and Israel's adherence to the premise that "united Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Jerusalem," we need to find a formula that can advance the peace march and overcome this problem.

Darawshah noted that he proposed that the Israeli Government should issue a statement promising to discuss the topic of Jerusalem in the negotiations while looking for the permanent solution during the final stage. It should be made clear to all that this topic is open to discussion when looking for a permanent solution. In addition, the transitional stage must also be linked to negotiations over the final solution.

Darawshah added that there is the problem of land, which is a basic issue with regard to the territorial borders, especially the settlements Israel wants to keep under its sovereignty. The Palestinians are demanding that all the occupied territories be united in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242.

He said it is possible to resolve this problem on the basis of reaching agreement that the Palestinians should have guarantees on their sovereignty over their land according to the land-for-peace formula. During this transitional stage, the Israeli authorities will be responsible for the Jewish residents until agreement over the final borders is reached, as well as over the points of difference regarding the permanent solution.

Darawshah affirmed that the rigid Israeli stand is the reason for the absence of progress in the peace talks so far, despite the fact that the Rabin government accepted stands that the former Shamir government rejected. He said: What is required is for the Israeli Government to show greater flexibility and publicly declare that the key to negotiations is the PLO and that it needs to negotiate with the PLO to find a solution.

He said if the Israeli Government shows seriousness and flexibility, agreement could be reached. The PLO is able to reach agreement as are the other Arab countries. What

is required is "greater pressure on the Israeli Government, particularly on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, to submit to the international will and accept an agreement."

Darawshah said he held extended talks with a number of Palestinian officials and proposed a three-stage plan that he previously proposed in Israel and to some foreign ambassadors in Israel, including the U.S. ambassador there. This plan guarantees finding a three-stage peace solution. [passage omitted]

On direct contacts between the PLO and the Israeli Government, Darawshah said that two-thirds of the Israeli Cabinet today support direct talks with the PLO, as well as a majority in the Labor Party, Meretz, and the Arab Democratic Party. A majority of the Israeli public also supports negotiations with the PLO. "Yitzhaq Rabin is required to translate this wide support into true action," Darawshah adds. This will be met with great support in the Israeli street and world public opinion.

Darawshah said that convening a meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin needs some time, but the possibility of raising the level of representation in the peace talks seems more feasible. For example, the level of representation in the multilateral talks will be raised. The coming meeting of the refugees committee in October in Tunis will be attended by Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, for the first time. This is considered a raising of the level of representation in the negotiations. I hope it will be followed by another meeting in which Peres and Faruq Qaddumi take part.

On the American paper which was submitted at the end of the 10th round, Darawshah said that there are some bases for a solution, but they are not enough because they are biased toward Israel. They are not enough for the Palestinian people and do not give the necessary guarantees regarding the two sensitive issues of land and Jerusalem. As the first sponsor of the peace conference and negotiations, the United States is required to propose an amended working paper that responds positively and equally to the just Palestinian stand and the real demands of the Palestinian people.

He added that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who will come to the region in a few days, carries with him possibilities on making amendments to the American paper. However, I do not expect a radical change in the American working paper, he added.

On the Jordanian-Palestinian confederacy proposed as a way out of the stalemate, Darawshah said that it is an acceptable solution for the Palestinians and Israelis and it could solve the current problems. He pointed out that he previously proposed to the Knesset setting up a confederacy over three stages. The first stage would be to set up an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The second stage would be to set up a Jordanian-Palestinian confederacy. The third stage would be to set up a three-way Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian confederacy—what has been called the Middle Eastern Benelux. According to him, this idea is very acceptable to Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians alike.

DFLP: Media Clamor Over Confederation Divisive

JN2707105793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Jul 93 pp 20, 16

[Text] Amman—The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], headed by Nayif Hawatimah, has said that the current media clamor over a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation aims at paving the way for settlement formulas that are not related to this confederation, the principle of which was endorsed by the Palestine National Council [PNC].

In a statement issued by its Political Bureau, the DFLP said that what is currently being presented has no relation to a confederation considered by Jordanian officials themselves as premature.

The DFLP explained that the current proposals on a confederation are related to Israeli ideas about power sharing, Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Palestinian territories, reviving the Rabin plan on the regional compromise solution, and reviving the Allon plan to divide the Palestinian territory within the framework of a final solution.

The DFLP Political Bureau's statement said that another objective of raising this media clamor is to fabricate differences and problems among the Arab parties concerned with the negotiating process and between the Palestinian and Jordanian people, in particular.

The DFLP reiterated its call for suspending participation in the bilateral negotiations and halting participation in the multilateral negotiations. It also called for starting a comprehensive national dialogue that would prepare for the convening of a PNC unifying session and for crystallizing a new negotiating strategy based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 242, 338, and 194.

The DFLP Political Bureau's statement called for convening an Arab summit in order to achieve tangible resolutions to rebuild the negotiating process so that it would include the participation of the United Nations, as the sponsor of international legitimacy resolutions, and the participation of international parties other than the United States, such as the EC, China, and Japan.

The statement saluted the steadfastness and courage of the brave Palestinian detainees and prisoners inside Israeli occupation prisons.

Five Factions Endorse National Dialogue Paper

JN2607115393 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jul 93 pp 1, 26

[By Aman al-Sa'ih]

[Text] Following a series of dialogues among five factions affiliated with the PLO in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a working paper on comprehensive Palestinian national dialogue was endorsed a few days ago. This paper was submitted by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team.

The paper was approved by Fatah, the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], Fida [Palestinian Democratic Federation], the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by Nayif Hawatimah, and the Palestinian Democratic People's Party, based on the following three concepts: The dialogue is held within the framework of the factions participating in the political process; this dialogue aims to bolster the PLO's unity and national role; and there is a possibility that the dialogue may produce local and regional terms of reference that will pave the way for comprehensive national terms of reference.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that there are discussions on introducing several independent personalities into the committee that emanated from the factions' meetings. Among the proposed names are: 'Abd-al-Jawad Salih, Hanna Nasir, Yusra al-Barbari, 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, Muhammad al-Radwan, Wahid al-Hamdallah, and Fa'iq Warrad.

The following is the text of the document:

In light of the firm conviction of the need to begin a comprehensive national dialogue on the basic problems facing Palestinian action at this critical phase of national struggle and the need to mobilize Palestinian capabilities in order to confront potential challenges and dangers, it was necessary for the national personalities to engage in this process and respond to its urgent requirements, foremost by reaching a preliminary national agreement on this dialogue's framework, mechanism, and topics.

The Framework of Dialogue

1. Everyone expresses the conviction and belief that there is need to make every possible effort to render this dialogue a truly comprehensive national dialogue that will not exclude or veto anyone. Repairing our Palestinian house requires that everyone should participate in accomplishing this mission and that the entire Palestinian capabilities should be mobilized for it, stemming from acknowledging the potential threats posed to everyone. The factions affiliated with the PLO have begun this dialogue. This, however, does not mean that this dialogue will not expand later to include those who are outside the PLO in addition to independent national personalities who can be named and agreed on.

2. In view of the unity of the Palestinian people and the common Palestinian concerns, the ongoing dialogue in the occupied territory should be viewed as an indivisible part of the comprehensive dialogue among PLO factions in the diaspora. On this basis, our institutions inside and outside the occupied homeland should not be viewed as two separate and contradictory fronts, but as a unified whole. Any achievement or progress on either side will lead to bolstering the dialogue and pushing it toward its aspired objectives.

The Dialogue Mechanism

An agreement should be reached on the topics listed on the agenda of the dialogue. The required measures should be taken to effect the required interaction with our Palestinian leadership abroad to enable it to contribute to this process and to give it the required momentum.

The representatives taking part in this dialogue in the occupied territories are responsible for continuing efforts and deliberations until this process leads to tangible and positive results.

The Dialogue's Topics and Major Objectives

If the major objective of this dialogue is to reach a situation where we can mobilize our people's potentials and overcome the factors of division and fragmentation that are exhausting our national struggle and that threaten to waste all its achievements, then the major and most pivotal and fateful topics that have to be dealt with must be specified, and a unified stand on them must be developed.

The nature of the raised topics specifies the method for dealing with them and the measures that should be taken to tackle any situation that arises. It should be kept in mind that there is no ban on the discussion of any Palestinian affair. Nor is there a ban on making any relevant recommendation or decision, depending on the nature of the issue in question and the surrounding factors and the parties involved.

First: Issues related to our domestic situation:

A. The intifadah and the point that it has reached.

B. The deteriorating domestic situation and relations among various forces.

C. The repressive Israeli measures.

D. The required organizational measures to face up to the requirements of the current stage.

E. Embarking on a national review throughout the occupied territories and abroad.

F. Unifying institutions.

Second: Issues pertaining to the general Palestinian situation and the PLO:

A. Assessing the political situation, the impasse reached by the negotiations, and what should be done to preserve our national rights.

B. The threats posed to the PLO.

C. How to safeguard the PLO and bolster its structure.

Algeria

Malek Meets With Czech Deputy Foreign Minister

LD2407201393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] At the headquarters of the Presidency today, Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council and foreign minister, received Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Pavel Bratinka.

Following the meeting Pavel Bratinka made the following statement to Lazhar Miratla:

[Begin recording of Bratinka in vernacular with superimposed Arabic translation] This visit falls within the framework of activating international relations and the development of relations with Algeria.

We talked with Mr. Redha Malek about the problems of the world, particularly the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I have conveyed to Redha Malek the preoccupations of the Czech people and their concern over the condition of the Bosnian Muslims, as well as our readiness to offer its help to Bosnia. I have also delivered a special message to Reda Malek from Czech President Vaclav Havel. [end recording]

Arson Attack in Moudjebeur; Gendarmes Killed in El Harrach

LD2307164393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] It was learned today from the National Gendarmerie Command that the headquarters of the Moudjebeur municipality in Medea Province was this morning the target of an arson attack at the hands of unknown persons. The source added that the registry office was totally destroyed.

Also the National Gendarmerie Command said that two gendarmes were assassinated in the morning today in Chateau Rouge in the municipality of Eucalyptus in the El Harrach administrative district [suburb of Algiers].

Egypt

Musa Notes Efforts To End Israeli 'Acts of Aggression'

NC2607203693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1959 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed the need to stop the deteriorating situation in Lebanon and called for halting the Israeli acts of aggression to give peace a chance. In a statement this evening, Musa said that the Israeli acts of aggression will affect our current efforts to make the peace process successful on the basis of land for peace. He said that he has been in contact with Lebanon, the United Nations, the United States, and Israel to end this aggression. On the results of his contact with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today, Musa said: We hope that Israel responds with deeds and not only with words. He pointed out that contacts were held with Syria on this issue today.

U.S. Intervention Sought

NC2707115293 Paris AFP in English 1116 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, July 27 (AFP)—Egypt has urged the United States to intervene and halt the Israeli assault on guerrilla bases in Lebanon, warning of its impact on the Middle East peace process, officials said Tuesday [27 July].

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa summoned the U.S. charge d'affaires, Edmund Hull, late Monday and called on Washington to help stop the "Israeli aggression against Lebanon."

Egypt, the only Arab country to have made peace with Israel, was concerned over the possible repercussions on the already troubled U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace negotiations, Musa said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, due here Saturday on the first leg of a regional tour, cut short a visit to Asia and Australia on Tuesday, returning home for urgent consultations on the fighting in Lebanon.

Musa has also telephoned his Israeli counterpart, Shim'on Peres, to demand an end to the hostilities.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Call for Restraint Over Fighting

NC2707083593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR criticizes the U.S. Administration's position on the continuing Israeli attacks on south Lebanon and its call on all Middle Eastern countries to exercise the highest degree of self-restraint.

In its editorial today, the paper says: It is ludicrous to use the term "self-restraint" in this manner, particularly when the Western countries address it to the Bosnian people who are falling by the thousands under the hail of rockets fired by the Serbian and Croatian barbarians.

The paper asks: How can the victim be asked to exercise self-restraint and not try to resist his killer? How can he exercise self-restraint in his death throes?

AL-AKHBAR adds: The U.S. State Department's call for self-restraint is addressed to all Middle Eastern countries, although the crime is limited to an Israeli assault that may be the prelude to a new invasion of Lebanon, similar to the 1982 invasion which occurred with the blessing of Reagan's government. Perhaps the Americans are trying to lay the responsibility for the

victim's blood on all tribes, as the Arabs used to do in the pre-Islamic era [reference to old Arab custom of avoiding reprisal by the victim's clan by making individuals from as many tribes as possible take part in the killing].

Al-Baz Urges Palestinians Not To Reject U.S. Peace Ideas

NC2607191793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1354 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Beirut, 26 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has affirmed that Egypt is the first full partner in the Middle East peace process. He said Egypt's role is more important than the American role because Egypt's relations with the Middle East region and the concerned parties are much greater than those of the Americans.

In an interview published by the Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR, al-Baz said the Egyptian contribution is part of the Arab presence and posture in the negotiations. He said: We are not a neutral party because we are Arabs.

He explained that Egypt will continue to be able to take action more than the other parties in view of its experience in negotiations with Israel, which it has placed at the disposal of the Arab brothers.

He said Egypt represents a very important precedent that the Arabs can use to their benefit. This precedent involves Israel withdrawing to international borders and Egypt refusing to discuss the subject of borders. Therefore, it is possible to apply this to all Arab fronts, particularly the Syrian front.

In his interview, al-Baz said that after Syria indicated its willingness to accept peace, Israel should have presented its ideas on the basis of full withdrawal.

Al-Baz said he expects a declaration of principles between the Palestinian and Israeli sides to be signed in the next few weeks. He said that if this declaration is signed and implemented it will constitute a new reality with strong momentum.

He expressed his belief that there is also the possibility of reaching positive results in the next few months or by the end of the year on the Syrian-Israeli track. He affirmed that when such progress takes place, the door will be open to realizing positive results on the Jordanian and Lebanese tracks.

Al-Baz said Egypt still believes it is necessary for Israel to withdraw fully from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, even if Israel clings to the opposite position.

He said the major obstacle will be Jerusalem. As for the rest of the topics, such as Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the Palestinian entity, or security arrangements, these are issues that can be addressed.

Al-Baz affirmed that the important thing at this point is to negotiate over setting up a second Palestinian government during the transitional stage. He expressed his belief that some progress has been made, but it is less than was expected because we have entered an empty cycle in the talks.

Al-Baz said in his interview that Egypt informed the Palestinians that any concept or idea Washington presents should not be rejected. He said we should discuss it and explain our objections to it.

He added that regardless of what has been said regarding the U.S. bias toward Israel, it is in our interest that the United States be a partner in the settlement and play an effective role in it. He denied that the United States is holding all the cards, saying the cards are in the hands of the parties.

Al-Baz said the American role consists of attempts to reconcile the concerned parties. He clarified that the United States is not the only full partner because Egypt is also a basic party, even if there are no bilateral Egyptian-Israeli negotiations.

On the Lebanese-Israeli track, al-Baz affirmed that Israel must withdraw immediately from southern Lebanon and implement Security Council Resolution 425, which is different from Resolutions 242 and 338 and stipulates unconditional withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

He pointed out that Israel uses the internal situation in Lebanon as an excuse and demands that Lebanese legitimacy be imposed on all parts of the country. It also finds the excuse of a Syrian presence in some Lebanese areas.

Al-Baz said Egypt categorically rejects this Israeli stand. It also rejects Israel's request for security guarantees from Lebanon. He added that Lebanon has always been the victim of any developments in southern Lebanon. Therefore, it is the more deserving party to demand security guarantees.

Al-Baz said that since the Madrid conference for peace in the Middle East, the U.S. Administration has not attempted to move away from Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace, nor can it.

Al-Baz affirmed that Egypt will confront any violation or mistake in the implementation of these two resolutions.

On relations with Iran, al-Baz said that what Egypt has seen so far from Iran, whether in the Gulf region or regarding the stands of what is called fundamentalism, is a type of intervention in the affairs of the Arab countries under the cover of what is called exporting the Islamic revolution. He pointed out that statements by certain Iranian officials indicate that Iran believes this to be its right.

Al-Baz said that if we can prove Iran's stands are contrary to what we believe them to be, then we are ready to address the Iranians with flexibility based on

real behavior on the ground. He added that if Iran is ready to address Arab issues on the basis of respect for the sovereignty of the Arab countries and noninterven-tion in their internal affairs, Egypt is ready to address this new reality with flexibility.

PLO's Sha'th Meets Musa, Comments on Peace Talks

NC2707061693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently visiting Cairo.

The meeting was also attended by Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo.

Sha'th stated that the meeting addressed obstacles to the peace process. He added that the meeting took place within the framework of coordination between Egypt and Palestine on the peace process, especially as it comes before the visits to the region by Dennis Ross, the U.S. general coordinator on the peace talks, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Sha'th affirmed that Egypt plays an important role in the peace process. It is also an ally and supporter of the Palestinian stand.

He said a Palestinian delegation headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, will visit Cairo in the next few days, before the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Cairo.

Sha'th adds that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo after Christopher's visit ends to hold talks with the Egyptian leadership on the peace process.

Talks With Sudanese Delegation Continue; Musa Comments

NC2607213893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1208 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—The second round of talks between Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Sudanese counterpart Husayn Abu-Salih concluded at the Foreign Ministry this evening. At the end of the session, Musa said that they resumed talks on a number of existing problems and we heard certain Sudanese proposals. He said that the Sudanese delegation also heard certain Egyptian proposals. He noted that the meetings will resume Tuesday [27 July] in bilateral sessions between himself and the Sudanese foreign minister and between the two delegations. He pointed out that the Sudanese foreign minister submitted working papers relating to future ties between the two countries. He said that he and Abu-Salih will hold a news conference after the talks end tomorrow to announce the results.

Sudanese Officials View Talks

NC2707130893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—The third round of the Egyptian- Sudanese talks led by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Sudanese counterpart Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih ended today. Speaking after the session, the Sudanese foreign minister stated that a technical committee made up of specialists will be set up to examine what had been discussed as well as the documents submitted by the Egyptian and Sudanese sides, including the issue of Hala'ib, consular affairs, educational missions, and other issues. He stressed that the points of agreement between the two sides exceed the points of difference.

Musa Ya'qub, spokesman for the Sudanese delegation, has stated that the Sudanese side submitted a working paper outlining its views on future relations between the two countries. He pointed out that the two sides will resume their meetings at 1800 today, Cairo time, to continue discussion of the topics under debate. The Sudanese delegation's spokesman described the talks as "constructive and frank talks to enable us to establish sound relations, to put Egyptian-Sudanese relations back on the right track, and to avoid the mistakes of the past." He added that all topics are under discussion in a bid to resolve all the outstanding problems between Egypt and Sudan. He noted that the Egyptian delegation had submitted a working paper in response to the Sudanese proposals, adding that the technical committee will draft a single document containing the two sides' views on how to resolve the existing problems.

Morocco

French Prime Minister Comments at End of Visit

LD2307214693 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] French Prime Minister Balladur has held a news conference at the end of his visit to Morocco, during which he replied to journalists' questions on French-Moroccan relations and regional and international issues.

At the news conference Eduard Balladur said that he familiarized himself with the opinion of his majesty the king and the Moroccan Government on international and Middle East issues, particularly the situation in former Yugoslavia, the peace process in the Middle East, the Gulf region, and the situation in Lebanon.

After recalling that France is Morocco's principal partner in investment and trade exchanges, Balladur said that his visit to our country is an opportunity to give further impetus to bilateral relations. He said that he discussed economic, financial, and cultural relations as well as relations in the audio-visual field.

After praising the restructuring measures which include taxation and excise reforms and privatization, the French prime minister stressed France's support for Morocco's determination to achieve closer ties with the EC. Balladur said that immigration was among other issues he discussed with Moroccan officials. In that context he recalled that around 600,000 Moroccan nationals living abroad are characterized by exemplary conduct. He pointed out that the measures adopted by France in immigration are aimed at combating illegal immigration and, consequently, at facilitating the integration of foreigners residing there in accordance with the laws in force.

The French prime minister said that he took the opportunity of his visit to Morocco to meet with representatives of the French community in Morocco, estimated at 27,000. They are enjoying excellent conditions and are playing a major role in developing relations between Morocco and France.

Balladur said that he exchanged views with Moroccan officials on the issue of the Sahara and prospects of a settlement of the problem. He expressed hope that the referendum will be held under the best circumstances.

Eduard Balladur left Rabat-Sale Airport this evening at the end of his official visit.

Sudan

Armed Forces 'Legitimate Command' Leader Interviewed

PM2707101693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jul 93 p 6

[Interview with General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, "head of the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces," by Zayn-al-'Abidin Ahmad Muhammad in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Muhammad] What is your opinion of the accusations leveled at you by the government?

['Ali] Those accusations are absolutely baseless, because we are simply a legitimate command from the Sudanese Armed Forces, not a mercenary or terrorist group or a front seeking to seize power in Sudan. We believe in legitimacy, the Constitution, peace, justice, and equality.

In our fight against the [National Islamic] Front's regime we have never contemplated political assassinations, terrorist operations, or destroying vital installations as the al-Bashir government alleges. We believe these belong to the people of Sudan, not the regime, so how can we destroy them? In our work we proceed from a professional military concept.

[Muhammad] What is the role of the Legitimate Command in the Sudanese opposition?

['Ali] We of the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces and security forces represent—according to the charter—one of the three pillars of the Democratic National Grouping. We adhere to this charter in accordance with a military, professional, and national consensus over constitutional legitimacy, which stipulates the democratic pluralist option. Our role focuses on two public duties: First, a military duty represented in taking the necessary measures to uproot the Front's regime after destabilizing it and throwing it off balance by various measures.

The second is bolstering opposition political action inside and outside the country and implementing the Grouping's program prepared accordingly, a program designed to remove the regime and establish transitional rule in Sudan. The Legitimate Command is playing an important role in the question of achieving peace, securing the transition period, and guaranteeing the success of the new experiment, especially as a task like this is expected to face difficulties.

[Muhammad] What means is the opposition adopting to achieve these aims?

['Ali] The means adopted by the opposition are parallel political and military means aimed at—through complete coordination and specific measures—launching an operation in the form of a people's uprising in which all forces of the people participate. [passage omitted]

With regard to the military means, this generally means a military action carefully planned inside the military establishment with the full support of and in complete coordination with the other forces. The announcement of a democratic, pluralistic system must be preceded by a serious, detailed operation with specific aims and scientific and practical programs to guarantee success in the end—which the opposition has prepared and is preparing to implement. [passage omitted]

[Muhammad] Is there cooperation between you and the main faction of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] led by John Garang, given that the present government accuses Garang of seeking to separate the south from the north?

['Ali] The relationship among the various forces of the Grouping is governed by the Grouping's charter, which emphasizes Sudan's unity. This is also stipulated more clearly by the draft transitional constitution announced in London in February 1992. Cooperation between us and the SPLA centers on and proceeds from this concept with a view to implementing the clauses of the charter. The government's accusations are the result of its basic positions on the main issues during its talks with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement. So these accusations have nothing to do with relations between us and the SPLA.

[Muhammad] Does the Sudanese opposition support UN efforts to establish safe areas in southern Sudan?

['Ali] The suffering of citizens in the south, west, east, and center of Sudan from starvation and homelessness is a terrible human tragedy by any standard. The Sudanese opposition has been drawing attention to it since it began its work abroad. [passage omitted]

We support all the efforts made by the United Nations and international and nongovernmental organizations and any humanitarian effort aimed at alleviating the Sudanese people's suffering. However, we reject foreign intervention, which imposes a situation leading to solutions unacceptable to us or to the Sudanese people, except for a few. Any foreign intervention to impose safe areas would perpetuate in one way or another the existing regime in Sudan, as it would relieve it of its responsibilities toward its citizens and free it from the pressures resulting from the expansion of the area of armed struggle and the escalation of political opposition, hence enabling it to concentrate on striking at any opposition voice in the other areas of Sudan, especially the north. The Sudanese opposition knows the cause of the disease and has the radical solutions to alleviate and eliminate this suffering, but it expects everyone who believes in its cause to contribute to securing the means and tools that help to achieve the Sudanese people's right to peace, freedom, and justice. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Foreign Ministry Condemns 'Irresponsible' Acts in Lebanon

LD2707135193 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

[Text] Tunisia is following with great concern the dangerous escalation which is prevailing in the Middle East region as a result of the Israeli forces' repeated violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, killing of innocent civilians, and intimidation of the populace. While reaffirming its solidarity with Lebanon's government and people in confronting the Israeli challenges, Tunisia condemns anew these irresponsible actions which threaten to torpedo the peace efforts and restore the cycle of violence and instability to the region at this critical stage, in which the international community is making continuous efforts to establish a just peace based on international legitimacy. It also calls on the international community to work for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 concerning the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

Chamber of Deputies Approves Bill on Terms of Office

LD2307155593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Editorial Report] Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 23 July carries a six-minute report on the proceedings of the Chamber of Deputies 23 July session at which a constitutional bill on parliamentary and presidential terms of office is to receive its first reading.

An announcer introduces recorded passages from the Chamber of Deputies session, beginning with the chamber speaker who welcomes the prime minister and members of the government, and then asks for contributions from the deputies. A deputy expresses support for the bill, and praises the achievement as a democratic aspect of the new era. The speaker then introduces Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, who stresses President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's concern for returning sovereignty to the people and establishing the supremacy of the law. He says the new bill proceeds in this direction and it consecrates respect for the law. The speaker then introduces the text of the bill, which is read by an unnamed deputy as follows:

"In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Constitutional bill connected with the forthcoming parliamentary and presidential terms:

"Single chapter: Excepting the provisions of Article 1, Chapter 29, of the Constitution, the first session of the forthcoming parliamentary term will begin during the first half of April 1994. The current parliamentary term ends on the day the new parliament meets.

"Excepting the provisions of Chapter 22 and the first article of Chapter 39 of the Constitution, the forthcoming parliamentary and presidential terms end on 2 November 1999, taking into account the provisions of the Constitution."

The speaker then calls for comment; when none is forthcoming, he asks for a vote. The bill is unanimously approved. The speaker says: "The constitutional bill has been approved in its first reading without objection or abstention."

Bahrain

Amir, Prime Minister Receive Kuwaiti Head of State

JN2607121793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 26 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin- Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, this morning received His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, and his delegation, who are currently visiting Bahrain.

Their highnesses the amir and prime minister welcomed the country's honorable guest, wishing his highness a good stay in Bahrain. They emphasized the longstanding, deep, and close brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples. Their highnesses praised the progress, development, and growth of Bahraini-Kuwaiti relations in various fields.

Their highnesses affirmed Bahrain's eagerness to bolster cooperation with Kuwait on all levels for the good of the two peoples in a manner that meets the aspirations and hopes of the area peoples and bolsters the march of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states.

Their highnesses the Bahraini amir and prime minister reviewed with His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah the brotherly bilateral relations and a number of current developments and issues.

For his part, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al- Sabah conveyed to his highness the amir of Bahrain the greetings of his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, amir of Kuwait, and his wishes to his highness and his highness the prime minister for continued health and happiness and the Bahraini people continued progress and prosperity.

His Highness also expressed his pride in this visit, which reflects the deep cordial, brotherly relations between the two wise leaderships and the peoples of the two countries. He affirmed Kuwait's eagerness to bolster cooperation with Bahrain in all fields. He wished Bahrain—government and people—continued progress, development, and prosperity. [passage omitted on those attending]

'Deep Ties' Praised During Official Talks

JN2607202193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Manama, 26 Jul (WAKH)—Official talks opened in Manama this evening between a Bahraini delegation led by the prime minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and a Kuwaiti team led by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the country's heir apparent and prime minister.

Attending for Bahrain were the heir apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin- 'Isa Al Khalifah, general commander of Bahrain's Defense Force; Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak al Khalifah; Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Bin-Hamid Al Khalifah, who heads the escort mission; Communications Minister Shaykh 'Ali Bin- Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah; Mr. Majid Jawad Jishi, Public Works, Electricity and Water Minister; Commerce and Agriculture Minister Mr. Habib Ahmad al-Qasim; Staff Lieutenant General Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, deputy general commander of Bahrain's Defense Force; Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', minister of state for cabinet affairs; Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif al-Fumayhi, director general of the Prime Minister's Office; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Qadi, Bahrain's ambassador in Kuwait; and Mr. 'Ali Muhammad al-'Arid, director of the Information and Followup Desk at the Prime Minister's Office.

The talks were joined for Kuwait by Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah; Commerce and Industry Minister Dr. 'Abdallah Rashid al-Hajiri; Minister for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd-al- 'Aziz al-Dakhil; 'Abd-al-Latif 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Bahr, officer in charge of the Prime Minister's Office; Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; Major Genral Yusuf Badr al- Kharafi, under secretary at the Interior Ministry; Mr. 'Abd-al- Wahhab Yusuf al-'Adasani, Kuwait's ambassador in Manama; and Ambassador Khalid Sulayman al-Jarallah, director of the Cooperation Council at the Foriegn Ministry.

The prime minister opened the session by welcoming the esteemed guests, and noting the deep ties that bind the two brother countries and peoples. Shaykh Khalifah expressed the hope the visit will further cement the historic and distinguished ties between Bahrain and Kuwait. His highness stressed that the visit falls within the framework of a bilateral endeavor to coordinate moves on all fronts. The prime minister emphasized that Bahrain seeks to beef up Gulf and Arab solidarity as a bulwark against all challenges and for regional stability and Arab advancement.

The prime minister of Kuwait, for his part, thanked Shaykh Khalaifah for the warm welcome and hospitality he and his delegation received in Bahrain. Shaykh Sa'd said his visit symbolizes the depth of the relations between Kuwait and Bahrain. He also observed that the leaderships in the two countries stand firmly behind a further strengthening of these relations.

The Gulf News Agency has learned that the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere, showing an identity of views on all the topics that came up for discussion. They talked about regional developments and issues of interest to the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The Bahraini and Kuwaiti sides agreed to intensify their official contacts in the interest of still greater cooperation.

Kuwait

* Official on Marketing Oil in Israel

93AE0536A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
15 Jul 93 p 10

[Interview With 'Ali Jabir al-'Ali al-Sabah, Commissioned Member of Kuwaiti Petroleum Board, Assigned to Marketing, by Zaynab 'Abd-al-Hadi; date and place not given: "We Await Outcome of Peace Negotiations Before We Market Our Oil in Israel; We Oppose Creation of Arab Market for Exchange of Oil Products"]

[Text] Shaykh 'Ali Jabir al-'Ali al-Sabah, the member of the Kuwaiti Petroleum Board assigned to marketing, has said that the Kuwaiti oil sale policy is based on a strategy that seeks to achieve a continuous flow of these products in order to protect the country's national economy from being affected by the fluctuation experienced ordinarily by oil markets.

In an interview in which he reviewed the infrastructure and procedural problems with which Kuwait has dealt in order to market its oil in the world since its liberation, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah pointed out that the corporation is waiting for a "just solution to be developed for the Arab-Israeli conflict before it sells its oil in the 'market of the State of Israel.'"

The Kuwaiti official expressed confidence in the stability of oil prices in the world markets until the year 2000 and has voiced his opposition to the creation of a common Arab market for the exchange of oil products among Arab countries at reduced prices.

He has also said that the Kuwaiti Petroleum Board has succeeded in securing markets for Kuwaiti oil derivatives, which will find their way to these markets as soon as Kuwait's oil refineries, damaged by the Iraqi invasion, are repaired.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah criticized domestic parties in Kuwait that try to evaluate the corporation's work incorrectly and to disseminate incorrect information about it. He noted that absolutely no problems confront the marketing of Kuwaiti oil in the Mediterranean region and that the corporation is prepared to reconsider its administrative structure in order to respond to oil market developments. Following is the text of the interview:

['Abd-al-Hadi] What are your expectations concerning international demand for crude oil until the end of the current decade? Do you expect prices to stabilize at their current levels?

[Al-Sabah] From now and until the onset of the next century, I expect stability in price levels. The volume of oil offered by the OPEC members will be close to the volume of international demand for OPEC production.

It is also expected that by the year 2000, demand for OPEC oil will range from 30-33 million barrels daily, keeping in mind that OPEC members' production capacity is estimated at 32-35 million barrels daily.

If we take into account some political factors, such as the joint responsibility of the OPEC members, and the fact that some planned capacity increases may not materialize because of the financial needs of some countries, we will find that it will be easy for the OPEC countries to maintain their unity and to prevent inundation of the world markets with oil.

['Abd-al-Hadi] What impact will the European energy tax, in case it is levied, have on the Kuwaiti economy?

[Al-Sabah] We must consider the energy tax in general terms. This tax isn't intended to improve the environment. Rather, it is a tax on the income of citizens of the countries that will levy it. The monies collected from this tax will go to the public treasury, not to a fund designated to improve the environment.

If this tax is levied, it will lead to increased production costs in the consuming countries. It will diminish the ability of these countries' exports to compete in international markets. The final outcome will damage the economies of these countries if they don't deal with the issue carefully. At present, the general tendency is to reconsider this tax, as has happened in the United States.

['Abd-al-Hadi] A study presented recently to the UN Development Research Program has called for establishing a common Arab market to promote the exchange of oil products among the Arab countries at reduced prices. Do you support this?

[Al-Sabah] In general, I am personally opposed. The world is moving toward breaking shackles that restrain international commerce. To date, this movement has enhanced the world economy. I believe that establishing such restrictions will lead to the decline, not progress, of the Arab economies. The best example of this is the development we are witnessing in the GATT organization, the EEC, and in NAFTA between Canada, the United States, and Mexico. It is better to break these shackles, not impose them.

['Abd-al-Hadi] Since liberation, there has been considerable activity to market Kuwaiti oil directly. How have international oil companies responded?

[Al-Sabah] Thanks and praise should go to the brothers in the Kuwaiti Oil Company [KOC] because they have exerted immense efforts, not the least of which is the effort they made to extinguish the burning oil wells and to restore their production and export capacity. Thanks should be addressed to these people, especially to 'Abd-al-Malik al-Ghurbali, who headed the KOC at the time.

As for international marketing, we stayed in constant contact with our clients during the occupation, and we asked them to urge their governments to support Kuwait. Those clients did, thankfully. After the occupation, we remained in contact with the clients to familiarize them with the development of Kuwait's oil production and

export capacities. This contact has led to continued relations with our clients and to supplying them with Kuwaiti oil directly and easily.

Normalcy has been restored now and we have regained our production capacity, which amounts to two million barrels daily.

Strategy

['Abd-al-Hadi] Successive international political and economic developments have their effects on the world oil markets and on the fluctuating crude oil prices. How does Kuwait face these developments?

[Al-Sabah] Our policy on the sale of Iraqi oil is clear. It is based on a strategy that seeks to ensure the continued flow of Kuwaiti oil and to avoid fluctuation in national income. One part of our strategy is to process a certain percentage of the oil in our refineries, whether inside Kuwait or in international refining centers, and to transport a percentage of this oil on Kuwaiti tankers. This strategy also calls for the direct marketing of a certain percentage of our sales. The surplus is then sold in international markets. The objective is to avoid the fluctuation that occurs in these markets. We face no problems, whether in marketing crude oil or oil derivatives. Inversely, we have found that there is general demand for Kuwaiti oil. There are numerous refining companies that wish to include Kuwaiti oil as part of the raw materials they process in their refineries.

['Abd-al-Hadi] Some opinions expressed locally have been urging the corporation to improve the performance of its international marketing management sector. What is your response to these opinions?

[Al-Sabah] It is always our objective to seek what is better, to improve performance, to get the best prices, and to secure contracts that ensure the permanent and continuous flow of Kuwaiti oil to its consumers. Of course, mistakes are made in some operations at times. A couple of months ago, for example, we had a problem with a tanker that was headed for Europe. But this tanker changed its course, going to the Mediterranean, and ended up in the United States ultimately.

Some earnest people and some commentators say that there are problems in marketing Kuwaiti oil. The truth is that these problems are no more than minor operational problems. We are only human, and may He Who Makes No Mistakes be exalted. But it is unacceptable for a person who has no responsibility in the oil sector to say that the marketing operations are deficient. This is tantamount to slander. We don't lack the courage to evaluate, and we can evaluate our performance at any time. Such evaluation must, however, come from the administrative agencies responsible for the oil establishment, not from somebody who imposes himself as custodian of others.

['Abd-al-Hadi] With increased oil-exploration efforts and with the discovery of more oil, do you expect a production increase in the coming phase?

[Al-Sabah] To date, we haven't discovered all of the oil deposits in Kuwait. We continue to discover more oil deposits constantly. In every discovery, we consider whether it is better to add this new oil to our main store or to build a new means to produce and export this oil separately. Before the criminal invasion, we discovered a light crude, which we called Kuwaiti light crude. We were in the process of developing the means to produce and export this oil, and we were talking to clients about this crude. But the invasion interrupted the effort. We hope to be able to produce and export this crude in the future.

['Abd-al-Hadi] For some time now, the board, which has undergone internal changes, has adopted a new policy to market oil and oil products. What is your evaluation of the new policy?

[Al-Sabah] We always look at the market developments and try to adapt our administrative structure to them. After the invasion, we found it better to change our structure because it had been previously founded on a geographic basis and not on the basis of specialization, as it is now.

It wasn't easy to introduce this change. We confronted numerous problems because of the complex manner in which numerous aspects had been interconnected. We have, however, overcome the problems.

Even though these changes have produced great positive results, we are prepared to introduce even more such changes in the future, if market developments justify them.

['Abd-al-Hadi] What about Kuwait's oil refining capabilities and what is the volume refined now?

[Al-Sabah] Regrettably, the criminal invasion destroyed a large part of the refining equipment. We are in the process of rebuilding and rehabilitating these capabilities. I would like to point out here that repairs to the refineries are proceeding energetically. On the basis of arrangements we have already made, oil derivatives provided by the refineries will go to the markets immediately.

['Abd-al-Hadi] Does this mean that you have opened new markets to sell Kuwaiti oil and oil derivatives?

[Al-Sabah] We try constantly to open markets and to develop the markets accessible to us. We leave no market unexplored. There are new markets still, and we await the right opportunity to enter them. There are two issues that impede this entry:

First, political developments. For example, for political reasons we had no opportunity to enter South Africa's markets. In the wake of the political developments in that country, its market has become accessible to us now. We are in the process of moving to this market and examining the possibility of selling Kuwaiti oil there. God willing, Israel's market will also become accessible to us when a just solution is developed for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Second, rapid economic growth in some markets. East Asia's markets have, for example, witnessed great growth. We examine this growth constantly to see how we can utilize

it to market Kuwaiti oil. Moreover, some Arab industries are developing. We are in constant contact with these industries, which we can utilize to market Kuwaiti oil derivatives.

['Abd-al-Hadi] U.S. businessmen and companies fear that use of Alaska crude as a standard for pricing other crudes will be abandoned. How well founded is this fear?

[Al-Sabah] We are tied to our clients in the United States by long relations that date back more than six years. From time to time, we review with our clients how well the oil used as the standard reflects true market conditions. We also review with them the feasibility of shifting from the oil established as a standard to another oil.

For example, previously Alaskan oil wasn't the oil used as the standard. But clients asked us to shift and make Alaskan oil the standard. We were convinced of their viewpoint, and we changed. Now that the U.S. oil market has undergone certain developments, we find ourselves compelled to review the feasibility of using Alaskann oil as a standard.

Mutual respect and appreciation between us and our clients are what is important in the issue. Our relations always reflect the true oil market conditions.

['Abd-al-Hadi] In light of OPEC's position on Kuwait's decision to increase production, how will Kuwait act if prices drop?

[Al-Sabah] Kuwait has announced that its production will rise to 1.9 million barrels daily in July and to 2.16 million by September. We don't expect this increase to affect prices negatively. There is demand for Kuwaiti oil and growing demand for OPEC oil. The increase will not cause the prices to collapse, and market prices will confirm this fact.

['Abd-al-Hadi] But what about the recent drop in oil prices?

[Al-Sabah] The recent drop was caused by a rumor to the effect that Baghdad's ruling regime will develop a solution with the United Nations to market the equivalent of $1.6 billion in oil. Personally, I am not optimistic about the possibility of such an agreement being reached. Baghdad's regime will not agree to any arrangement, unless it enables this regime to get some money to use to suppress its people. This is something to which the United Nations will never agree. Therefore, there will be no agreement.

['Abd-al-Hadi] It has been reported recently that Kuwait is facing a difficult task selling its oil in the Mediterranean region. Is this true?

[Al-Sabah] What is surprising about this report is that we have no preference for sales in the Mediterranean region. Our additional sales are headed for eastern and northern Europe and the United States. Our sales in the Mediterranean region amount to no more than five percent of our total sales. This is why I am surprised when it is said that we are facing problems in this market, considering that we haven't turned to this market in the first place. As I have already said, there are, regrettably, those who appoint themselves experts or officials who make off-the-cuff statements.

Oman

Sultan Receives Thank-You Cable From Saddam Husayn

JN2307161093 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God protect him, has received a reply cable from his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of Iraq.

The cable reads as follows: Your Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. With great thanks and appreciation, we have received your kindly worded and fraternal cable of congratulations, which you sent us on the national day of the Republic of Iraq, the 25th anniversary of the 17 July revolution. It pleases us to seize this opportunity to express to your majesty, on behalf of the Iraqi Government, and in my name, our wishes of continued good health and happiness for you, of further progress and prosperity for the fraternal Omani Arab people, and of enduring pride, dignity, and glory for our Arab and Islamic nation.

Qatar

Israeli 'Aggression' in Lebanon Condemned

JN2607173293 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Doha, July 26 (GNA)— The State of Qatar has strongly condemned the escalation of Israeli military violence and the recurrent Israeli aggressions on south Lebanon's towns and villages, and urged the U.N. and the international community to take all necessary procedures to put an end to those aggressions.

An official source at the Foreign Ministry said in a statement to Qatari News Agency that the Israeli military escalation and the continuation of the attacks is in stark contrast with Israel's allegations that it had the desire of maintaining peace in the Middle East, undermines efforts to advance the peace process and mars the atmosphere of the peace negotiations.

The source added that the State of Qatar appeals to the international community and other concerned organisations, especially the U.N. Security Council, to take the necessary measures to put an end to Israeli aggressions and to force Israel to abide by U.N. resolutions, international conventions and to respect Lebanon's sovereignty through the immediate application of the Security Council Resolution 425 which calls for the unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territory in order to maintain the Middle East peace process and reach a just, comprehensive and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Saudi Arabia

Fourth Contingent of Troops Leaves for Somalia

LD2307193793 Riyadh SPA in English 1925 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] Jubail, July 23, SPA—The fourth batch of the Saudi peace-keeping force flew to Somalia aboard a Royal Saudi Air Force aircraft from the Royal Navy airport in Jubail on Friday, to participate in delivering humanitarian aid to Somali brothers.

Navy Captain Hashim Ibrahim al-Qatib addressed the batch before their departure to brief them on their humanitarian mission which they would perform in line with the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques, the supreme commander of the armed forces.

The third batch arrived in Mogadishu on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the third batch of the replaced Fifth Battalion in the East African state left Mogadishu on Thursday as well.

Israeli Raids on Lebanon Condemned; UN Urged to Act

LD2607205693 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Under the chairmanship of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the Council of Minister today held its weekly session at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

At the end of the session, His Excellency the Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA:

The Council of Minister today discussed a number of local issues and referred them to the competent committees to finalize their organizational measures. The council then reviewed a report on current international events, including developments in southern Lebanon.

The council expressed deep concern, condemnation and dismay at the escalation of tension at the border zone between Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories, in addition to the continued Israeli aggression, such as the Israeli bombardment and air raids on some of the towns and villages of southern Lebanon. It was assessed that the continued threats and provocations, among which are the massing of military reinforcements on the outskirts of the Lebanese borders, can harm the peace process and disturb the climate which sister Lebanon was about to enjoy. The Council of Ministers urged the UN Security Council to immediately intervene to halt the Israeli aggression and the shedding of blood of innocent civilians in the southern region. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Officer Arrested for Supplying Arms to Fundamentalists

PM2607131793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jul 93 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Hammud Munsir in Sanaa and Lutfi Shatarah in London: "Yemeni Officer Arrested on Charge of Supplying al-Jihad With Arms"]

[Excerpt] The security authorities in Aden yesterday arrested an officer by the name of al-Zurayqi of the Yemeni Army's 10th Brigade after a long search. That came after al-Jihad members who were detained after the explosions in the Aden and Goldmoor hotels admitted that he had supplied them with missiles to attack a base used by U.S. Marines in Aden.

In statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Aden, security sources said that they expected the arrest of al-Zurayqi to lead to the whereabouts of the seven al-Jihad members who escaped from al-Mansurah's central prison last Sunday. They did not rule out the possibility that he played a part in their escape.

Yemeni Interior Minister Colonel Yahya al-Mutawakkil had accused foreign quarters of being behind the escape of the seven fundamentalists from prison, but he did not name them. He stressed in a press statement that "they will be captured soon." [passage omitted]

Salih Receives Russian Armed Forces Official

JN2507141493 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has received General (Leokaliev), first deputy chief of the Russian General Staff of the Armed Forces, who conveyed to the brother president a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin expressing the Russian leadership's congratulations to our people on their successes in the democratic field. The message also deals with relations between the two friendly countries.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed aspects of bilateral cooperation in the military field. They discussed the means to develop and strengthen this cooperation and expand its horizons in a manner that serves joint interests and is in line with the traditional friendly relations between our country and Russia.

The brother president praised the level of bilateral cooperation. He reaffirmed our country's willingness to develop these entrenched relations in a manner that translates the aspirations of the two friendly peoples and achieves common benefits and interests.

The meeting was attended by brother Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, minister of defense; Brother Staff Colonel Muhammad Haytham, deputy chairman of the General Staff; and the Russian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Position Paper Reflects Desire for 'Cooperation' With UN

JN2607082693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said that the position paper presented by Iraq to Mr. Ekeus and the Security Council has placed the Security Council before its moral and legal responsibilities and obligations toward Iraq. The position paper has also left the U.S. Administration and its allies no pretext or excuse to justify their blatant hostility toward Iraq and the continued illegitimate blockade which has been in place for more than three years.

In an article today, the paper says any close, careful reading of the position paper shows that it expresses a legitimate, fair, responsible, national attitude because it reflects Iraq's serious desire to enhance cooperation with the Security Council and the Special Commission to thrash out remaining differences. The position paper also embodies Iraq's concern for respecting its sovereignty, the dignity of its people and state, its internal security, lifting the unjust embargo, and ensuring its legitimate right to industrial, scientific, and technical progress and development. In addition, the paper includes other positive, balanced proposals.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that the United States can no longer falsely claim that Iraq refuses to comply with future plans on monitoring and verification in accordance with Resolution 715, or that Iraq has not fulfilled its obligations toward Resolution 687. However, the U.S. Administration and its allies might try to reshuffle cards and fabricate new issues not related to Resolutions 687 and 715. But such a thing would not free the Security Council of fulfilling its obligations and implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 by completely lifting the blockade without any additional conditions, after Iraq has implemented what is required under Resolution 687, as Mr. Ekeus himself has acknowledged.

AL-THAWRAH adds: No matter how far the U.S. Administration goes in its arrogance and aggressiveness toward Iraq and whatever it does to reshuffle cards, it will not be able to tarnish the just, legitimate, unambiguous Iraqi position, as expressed clearly in the paper. The U.S. Administration and its Security Council allies will also not be able to weasel out of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. Above all, the U.S. Administration will not be able to prevent the Security Council from fulfilling its obligations under Resolution 687 and considering the positive, balanced, and constructive proposals in the Iraqi paper.

The stark truth now is that Iraq, by submitting the position paper, has pulled the rug of international legitimacy from under the feet of the United States and its allies and deprived them of all the flimsy pretexts they had been using to maintain the blockade.

AL-THAWRAH warns that any attempt by these states now to weasel out of the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 will end in failure and will be completely exposed. It will also be an expression of a tendentious political stand hostile to Iraq.

This stand cannot be justified or defended under any circumstances, whether to other Security Council members or to world public opinion, which will realize that the continuation of the blockade is a decision made by the United States and its allies and has nothing to do with Iraq's implementation of Security Council resolutions.

Concluding its article, the paper stresses that Iraq's position paper will largely stem all U.S.-Western attempts to play the discordant tune of "Iraq has not implemented UN resolutions". In fact, any such attempt from now on will bring the United States and its allies worldwide condemnation and disrepute.

Strategic Expert Denies Radar Targeted U.S. Aircraft

JN2707094093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—A strategic expert has refuted the recent U.S. allegations that air defense units in southern Iraq operated a radar or fired anti-aircraft missiles against U.S. aircaft.

In a statement to the BBC, excerpts of which were published in AL-QADISIYAH, Major General Tal'at Musallam, expert in strategic and military affairs in the Middle East, said that under such circumstances Iraq does not fire missiles or operate its radars, as the U.S. Department of Defense said, but basically seeks to lift the embargo on its people.

The strategist added: Iraq does not seek to increase tension with the United Nations. It, however, seeks to safeguard its sovereignty and honor, which does not conflict with what Iraq is doing. He explained that it is obvious that the U.S. Administration wants to maintain the economic embargo against Iraq.

Concluding his statement, Maj. Gen. Musallam said: The U.S. allegations are similar to Kuwaiti allegations about the presence of Kuwaiti prisoners of war in Iraq. These are fabricated stories aimed at finding a pretext for the United Nations and the states which participated in the aggression to maintain the embargo against Iraq, and, perhaps, deal further aggressive blows to Iraq, he added.

U.S. 'Silence' Toward Iranian Attacks Questioned

JN2507105193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0834 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has affirmed that the recent Iranian aggression on some villages in the Kurdistan Autonomous

Region will not be the last as long as the situation there remains unstable and as long as the cards of all forces hostile to Iraq are mixed.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: Such attacks would not have occurred had the NATO allies and Zionists not helped the humiliated traitors in northern Iraq. When there was Iraqi national sovereignty in the Region, Tehran used to think twice before planning an action, and when Iranian aircraft dared to violate the Region's airspace, they soon faced a quick response which curbed their movements, the paper notes.

AL-THAWRAH explains: The cards of the covetous ones have been mixed, and they have begun to wreak havoc under the U.S. Administration's patronage and swords, which are brandished against the Iraqi people's rights.

Noting Washington's silence toward the Iranian aggressions, the paper says: The forces of the NATO allies have not once acted against the Iranian warplanes despite the fact that the attacks were frequently repeated. The truth about the U.S. patronage has been revealed; namely, this patronage protects the aggression on the Region, the paper adds.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the current unstable situation will not end and that tranquility and peace will not be achieved until the normal state of affairs returns under the Iraqi national sovereignty.

U.S. Acts in Somalia, Kuwaiti-Saudi 'Conspiracy' Viewed

JN2607144193 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, July 26, INA—The U.S. President Clinton's administration has bowed to the pressure of criticism by the Western public opinion on its intervention in Somalia and differences of the Western allies on the position towards the crisis of Somalia. President Bill Clinton's administration was forced to send an American delegation to study the situation in somalia and prepare a report on it, BABIL daily says in its editorial today.

The daily also says that U.S. President Clinton, likewise his predecessor Bush, imagines that sending American and allied troops to Somalia is merely a picnic that would end with drawing a positive picture of America and improve its reputation. But the peoples, however small in number they are, do not surrender to tyranny and persecution and execesses perpetrated by arrogant big powers and refuse it with various ways.

BABIL has further said that America has fallen in the traps of Somalia and the only way out of them would be the open and complete withdrawal of the aggressor troops. Peoples are always victorious while colonialists are doomed to defeat and failure. [passage omitted]

Today's AL-QADISIYAH newspaer called on the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to encounter the continuous greeds and conspiring of the al-Sabah and Al Saud on destinies of peoples.

The Iraqi Defence Ministry organ said in an article that the petroleum exporting countries must realize that they would face the same that Iraq had faced before and find themselves compelled to draw its arms in the face of the killers and mercenaries from al- Sabah and Al Saud.

The daily has added that the conspiracy was not aimed at the people of Iraq alone but rather all nations of the world including the peoples of the very aggressor countries. The criminals are the Zionist circles and large financial monopolies and their subservients of agents and small traitors.

AL-QADISIYAH daily has maintained that today, with the news about Iraq's return to exporting its oil, the conspiracy is renewed and the conspirators themselves are are back for re-playing their despicable roles heedless of the peoples needs or pains and hopes. Their only objective is to satisfy the imperialist and Zionist circles that dominated over the the institutions of finance and information and employed them for serving their purposes. [passage omitted]

BABIL Sees Hypocrisy in International Stance on Israel

JN2707101093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0742 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—The newspaper BABIL wonders what those who are eager to implement international resolutions will do with regard to the ugly Zionist aggression on fraternal Lebanon.

In an editorial entitled "The International Cowardice" , BABIL refers to Israel's frequent defiance of international resolutions, charters, and norms, and its launching of a new large-scale aggression against Lebanon, which is a UN member state. Israel is committing crimes and follies against civilians as part of its aggressive military operations known to everyone, the paper notes.

BABIL adds: Those who are eager to implement the aggressive resolutions against Iraq will today bury their heads in the sand and turn a blind eye to the aggression against Lebanon. They will also close their mouths, which a few days ago talked about an alleged Iraqi threat to regional security and stability.

The paper explains that if the zealous ones are prompted to talk, they will provide vile justifications and dirty lies in favor of the Zionist aggression. They may even draw sympathy for the aggressor in order to give it justification for further aggression, so it can persist in dismembering the Arab body.

BABIL wonders: What could the hypocrites say; what could their position be; and what will Washington's henchmen and agents say? Will the Security Council

meet within hours or rather days to issue resolutions against Israel and work out a mechanism for their implementation according to a timetable, just as this Council recently did in a totally different but legitimate situation? Would Tomahawk and Cruise missile units be mobilized to confront the Israeli aggressor? What allies would be united against this aggressor?

Concluding, BABIL stresses that all signs have confirmed that the position of the parties which Washington calls the international community, will compliment the Zionist aggression and will even provide justifications worse than the aggression itself. May God acccurse the cowards, the paper adds.

Kurdish Parties Meet, Issue Joint Communique

NC2607070393 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] secretary general, participated in the final congress of the Kurdistan Toilers Party—Unitary Course [Hizb Kadihi Kurdistan al- nahj al-wahdawi] in the Midya hall in Irbil yesterday morning. 'Umar Kartah, PUK Political Bureau member and official in charge of the organization's office, Kurdistan Parliament Deputy Speaker Najad Ahmad 'Aziz, and Sa'di Ahmad Bira, Kurdistan minister of agriculture and irrigation, also attended the meeting. Well over 750 representatives of the Kurdistan Toilers Party—Unitary Course participated in the meeting to approve the unitary formula between the two parties.

After observing a one-minute silence for the Kurdistan martyrs and immortal strugglers for freedom everywhere, [name indistinct] read the text of the joint communique between the PUK and the Kurdistan Toilers Party—Unitary Course.

Brother (Mam) Jalal made an important speech on the occasion. (Mala Bakhtyar) also made a speech on behalf of the congress. Afterward, 'Imad Ahmad delivered a statement on the agreement and its circumstances and concluded the session. The participants demonstrated their enthusiasm.

APFC Delegation Departs for Amman on Arab Tour

JN2607191793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—A delegation from the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC], led by APFC Secretary General Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, has left Baghdad for Amman on the first leg of an Arab tour that will take it to Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, and Jordan. [passage omitted]

Katyushas Hit Galilee 26 Jul; One Reported Injured

TA2607132293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] A short time ago, several katyusha rockets again fell in the Galilee Panhandle. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that buildings were damaged. One of the rockets fell on a multistory apartment house.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv has just reported that one woman was found wounded in the building that was hit in the Galilee and that she was taken to a local clinic. The rescue teams are currently searching the rest of the apartments.

Evening Attack Reported

TA2607211393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] About one hour ago, another round of katyushas hit a residential zone in Qiryat Shemona. One man suffered shock, several buildings were damaged, and fires broke out. This was reported by our correspondent Yo'av Aviv. Since 1800 this evening, six rounds of katyusha hit Israeli territory, five fell in the Galilee Panhandle, and one in the Western Galilee. No one was hurt.

More Rockets Hit 27 Jul

TA2707084393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Excerpts] A katyusha salvo was lobbed on the Galilee Panhandle a short time ago, but there were no reports of casualties or damage. A katyusha also fell in the security zone. Reports from south Lebanon over the past hour say there is heavy IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] shelling of al-Nabatiyah and its environs, and on the Tuffah area. Inhabitants of the shelled areas have urgently requested provisions from the authorities. [passage omitted] Our radio monitor Mikha'el Gurdus adds that Israel Air Force aircraft are flying low over wide areas of Lebanon and are breaking the sound barrier, causing damage to property and shocking residents.

The IDF is continuing to send forces to the north. Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Yo'av Aviv report that more forces—including armored personnel carriers, guns, and heavy mechanical equipment—have been moved north since Monday [26 July] afternoon.

Most of the villages north of the security zone have emptied of their inhabitants and the traffic going north has thinned out. The UN Interim Force in Lebanon commander inspected the area by helicopter after coordinating with the IDF. Lebanese sources reported 300 shells an hour being fired by the IDF in all sectors. [passage omitted]

Health Minister Hayim Ramon said that Operation Accountability indirectly serves the peace process since it is aimed at harming those who want to torpedo the process. The minister expressed the hope that Syria, which is interested in the peace process, understands that and will cease aiding the Hizballah. Our correspondent Nati Silberman reports that Minister Ramon was visiting IDF casualties hospitalized in Nahariyya.

Northern Command Chief Briefing Reported

TA2607202993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1938 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Telephone conversation between Mikha Friedman in the Qiryat Shemona studio and military correspondent Netan'el Semrik "in the field"—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, has just ended a briefing to military correspondents. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik was there. What did we learn from the general's remarks regarding our achievements in the operation so far?

[Semrik] He presented a general list of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] achievements after two days of Operation Accountability in Lebanon. According to current assessments, at least 40 terrorists were killed by IDF fire. The number of fatalities could still rise because many may still be buried under the ruined targets. The commander of the Northern Command also said that IDF shelling resulted in quite a large number of injuries. Dozens of Hizballah and Palestinian terror organization targets in south Lebanon have been hit so far in air raids by fighter planes, gunships, tanks, and special navy activity in northern Lebanon. Activity continues at this moment against locations where terrorists have been spotted and, according to the reports compiled by the defense establishment in Israel, many thousands of Lebanese residents have fled their villages following the IDF warnings and shelling of the outskirts of the villages, and are heading north. This is the current state of affairs.

[Friedman] Is the current aim still defined as fire directed at the outskirts of the villages on the other side, or has our artillery begun firing at population centers or villages that were inhabited until recently?

[Semrik] It is important to understand the process that led to the change in the aim of the fire, which continues even at this hour to be directed at the environs of the villages, and I will soon elaborate on this. The villagers were explicitly warned—through various means, including pamphlets, as Gen. Mordekhay said, radio messages, and other ways—to leave the villages in which, according to intelligence information, there is Hizballah activity. They were urged to leave the villages and go north in order to avoid harm to the innocent Lebanese population. Several hours after the messages were delivered, IDF artillery started shelling the outskirts of the more distant villages, according to Gen. Mordekhay. This shelling lasted some four hours, and was aimed to

show the Lebanese residents that the IDF is serious and has a clear aim: Harming the terrorists who use the villages as a shield. The artillery kept closing in on the villages as the hours went by, to deliver the message to the Lebanese that they should go further north.

In any event, at this time as well, IDF artillery keeps firing hundreds of shells at the areas of the villages. The fire is very controlled and pinpointed, and follows and is based on intelligence information and other reports from IDF soldiers in the north of the security zone. The firing is directed at specific Hizballah targets, not uncontrolled fire at the villages.

[Friedman] Did you get an idea of the time scope of the operation? How long will it last?

[Semrik] This is the big question that no one can answer as yet. After all, it does not depend on the IDF operation. Gen. Mordekhay said that it may take time for the other side to understand exactly what has happened in the field and study the damages its own activities have caused it, which should lead it to realize that it must introduce strategic changes to its activity against the IDF and the northern settlements. Let us hear a conversation with Gen. Mordekhay, held after his briefing several minutes ago:

[Begin recording] [Mordekhay] Knowing the residents of the north from the various posts I had held in this region, I know that they can endure. They know that the IDF, the Northern Command, the defense establishment as a whole is doing its best to distance and reduce the threat to their homes and settlements. I am certain that they will be patient and give their support to the IDF for as long as it is needed.

[Semrik] What are Israel's conditions for stopping Operation Accountability?

[Mordekhay] We do not have conditions. Once it reaches its aims, and the other side understands this and takes all the means at its disposal—including the influence of those backing it and those from which territory it operates—to stop its activities aimed at the northern settlements, we will no longer have any interest in escalating the situation. We will do everything we should to make the other side realize that, as far as we are concerned, the daily life of our citizens cannot be harmed while the other side of the border is quiet. The other side will pay a very heavy price for its actions against us.

[Qol Yisra'el's Karmela Menashe] Do you believe that Syria might intervene?

[Mordekhay] To the best of my judgment, Syria has no reason or business to intervene. The Syrians have been asked—through various channels—to take steps and do something that would prevent the Hizballah activity. I believe that if they had, as I have said on several occasions before, they could have significantly reduced terror activity against us by both Ahmad Jibril and Hizballah. The Syrians took no such step, and there is no logical reason for them to get involved in our just war against the terrorists operating from inside Lebanon against the State of Israel and the security zone.

[Semrik] Are you satisfied with the current results of the IDF attack on terror organizations in Lebanon?

[Mordekhay] At this time, I can only praise the forces operating in the security zone, along our northern border, the Israeli Navy, and all the rescue mechanisms. They are working well and efficiently, and our operations have so far achieved all the goals set for them, according to our expectations. [end recording]

[Semrik] As we could hear, Gen. Mordekhay was very careful in his evaluation of the time aspect. The operation can still last a very long time.

Rabin, Baraq Comment on Operation's Objectives

TA2607194093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, today said that Israel will continue its activity in Lebanon until the northern settlements are no longer held hostages in the confrontation in the security zone. Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq says Israel expects the Lebanese Government to curb the activities of Hizballah, otherwise Israel will do so. Our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden spoke with Yitzhaq Rabin and Ehud Baraq:

[Begin recording] ['Eden] During the cabinet meetings which preceded the operation, did you discuss the predicament of the northern settlements?

[Rabin] Indeed, speaking for myself, I can say that since last October I have often considered steps such as the present operation. I have searched for every possible way to ascertain that our residents along the northern border will not become hostages of Hizballah, who fire from beyond the security zone after every incident between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] and them. I can also not accept anything which would harm our freedom of action in striking terrorist centers north of the security zone. Finally, after various efforts as well as a show of restraint, I and the ministers reached the conclusion that we must act on the basis of the principle that unless there is calm for northern Israel there will be no calm for the residents of south Lebanon living north of the security zone. We hope that this would force the Lebanese population to express its opinion—whether in words or by foot—to the Lebanese Government and to its patrons. Unless there is calm here, they will not be able to live there.

['Eden] Mr. Prime Minister, the Meretz ministers have taken a position against this operation. As a prime minister who pushed for this operation as a way to put an end to terrorism against the IDF soldiers and the northern settlements, how do you react to Meretz's position within your government?

[Rabin] First, every government member has a right to express his position in the cabinet meetings and to vote for his position. The government, however, acts on the basis of collective responsibility, and once a majority decides on a certain method of operation, all those who remain in the government must bear the collective responsibility for the decision.

[Baraq] We are acting around the clock in an intensive manner. Our artillery is directing intensive fire toward the outskirts of the villages. After directing the villagers to leave, we will fire toward the source of firing and at Hizballah targets within the villages. We are using our jet fighters and helicopter gunships, and occasionally our tanks too. By means of these weapons and by arming ourselves with patience for a few more days, I believe that we will accomplish our objectives.

['Eden] Can we avoid being bogged down in Lebanon, as we have experienced in the past?

[Baraq] I am not a prophet. At this stage I do not think we should rule out any type of activity. We regard Hizballah, the population which harbors it, and the Lebanese regime which permits all this activity as responsible. We expect the Lebanese Government, which claims to be a sovereign regime, to curb the katyusha attacks from its territory. If it fails to do so, however, we will have to use all the means at our disposal to see that this happens. At this point I would not rule anything out. [end recording]

Cabinet Expects Current Stage To Last Another Week

TA2607212693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The special cabinet session this evening was told that at this stage there is no discussion of sending infantry troops into Lebanon. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. The ministers were briefed by the prime minister, the chief of staff, and the head of the Intelligence Branch. The ministers believe that the current stage could last another week. This stage includes air raids, artillery and low-trajectory fire at Hizballah and other terror ornganization targets, including fire directed at villages and buildings where Hizballah men are situated.

Goals of IDF Operation Detailed

TA2607193093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] In Jerusalem, the government is going into another special session at this time. The cabinet is convening to hear an update on and make decisions regarding the continuation of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in Lebanon. This will be the third cabinet session over the past two days. In the session, the ministers will hear an evaluation that katyushas will keep falling on Israeli territory for quite some time, at least several more days and perhaps longer. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has the details of the goals of the Lebanon operation and the forecasts of senior political echelons:

[Sukenik] This evening the picture is clearer: Currently, the aim of the IDF operation is to bring about the mass escape of the residents of the villages and townships north of the security zone. This will destabilize the Lebanese Government and pressure it to take action to neutralize Hizballah. The purpose is to bring many refugees to the suburbs of Beirut, as reliable sources put it, and at the same time to harm Hizballah, naturally.

To this end, the IDF acted in several stages. The first stage, yesterday, was air raids outside the villages. In the second stage, helicopters and tanks joined the operation in surgical bombing near Shiite villages. The third stage, today, started with a heavier shelling of the outskirts of the villages, and was followed with warnings to the civilians that they should escape. During the day, the IDF started shelling terrorist targets inside some of the south Lebanon villages with smoke and phosphorous shells. The next stage will be a heavy shelling of each settlement in which terrorists will be located, with the option to expand this to additional localities.

Last night, the chief of staff asked the cabinet not to rule off hand against the option of sending troops deep into enemy territory, if this is called for. It should be noted, however, that most of the ministers will probably oppose this. The prime minister is also not interested in allowing infantry join the operation. He will do everything he can to settle for distant fire and avoid casualties.

The decisionmakers term it a limited war of attrition, estimating that katyushas might keep falling in our territory in the near future. According to recent updates, Hizballah men have not left the villages, despite Israeli fire. They keep hiding among civilians and direct their katyusha rockets at the big settlements in northern Israel.

As for Syria, Jerusalem believes that there is no threat of a military clash with it. Jerusalem hopes that the Lebanese Government will ask for a backup in neutralizing Hizballah, and that the Syrian landlords will provide it.

The government convenes for another session this evening. So far, Yitzhaq Rabin enjoyed the support of the majority. Over the past 24 hours, however, the number of ministers who have reservations regarding the operation went up to seven or eight of the 18 cabinet ministers, despite the fact that they were promised that everything possible will be done to avoid entanglement.

Peres: No Change in Christopher's Scheduled Visit

TA2707113893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Karmit Gay at the Lebanese border on 27 July—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Gay] I would like to ask you about your American colleague. There are conflicting reports about whether he will come to the region. We heard today that he refused to blame or place any responsibility on Syria for what is happening now.

[Peres] He undoubtedly has his reasons for saying something or not saying it because his main aim is the peace track, and I welcome that. It is inconceivable to think that because of a deranged Hizballah, we will stop or play down the peace process. That is utter rubbish. We will not hand either peace or security over to Hizballah. I am sure the U.S. Secretary of State also understands that if we quit the peace process it will be Hizballah's greatest victory. I am sure that not only we, but also the Arabs, do not want that violent organization to be given such a victory.

[Gay] What reactions do you hear from the United States and other opinions of interest that go beyond expressions of hope that this will not happen.

[Peres] Up to now, what has been said in the media and by official spokesmen reflects understanding and sympathy for what Israel is doing, except perhaps for one state—France—and I was very surprised to hear the French spokesman. I feel that even the Arab states understand that it is not Israel that started the whole thing and wants to escalate the situation, and it is not Israel that aspires to war, but that all of this has been imposed on us, and we simply have to defend ourselves properly.

[Gay] To conclude, do you think Secretary Christopher will come Saturday [31 July], as decided?

[Peres] I believe that Dennis Ross and his team will come as scheduled. Up to this moment, I can only express the hope that the secretary of state will also come as planned.

[Gay] But you have no real information?

[Peres] The information I have right now is that there has been no change in Christopher's scheduled visit to Israel.

Says Hizballah Should Be Taught Lesson

TA2707110193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] During a tour of the north today Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that Hizballah should be taught a proper lesson. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz was with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Begin recording] [Horowitz] Mr. Peres, there were rumors or reports in Lebanon that UN positions were hit as a result of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] shellings. Have you received information on what happened there?

[Peres] I do not have such information. I too heard this on the media. I regret it very much. It is not yet clear from which direction they were hit. I also heard that katyushas may have been responsible for this. Katyushas are quite dangerous, after all.

[Horowitz] Shim'on Peres, who visited the Galilee panhandle this morning, was asked how long Qiryat Shemona and other residents in the north will have to stay in air raid shelters.

[Peres] I do not think anybody can precisely predict right now how many days this will last. Hizballah should probably be taught a proper lesson.

[Horowitz] I hope it is a matter of days, Peres said, adding: We want to stop them from firing on the Galilee. This is not a war with Lebanon. It is a war against a single enemy: the Hizballah organization.

The foreign minister was also asked whether all goals in Lebanon have been achieved.

[Peres] Up till now, everything is going according to plans. It is very difficult to tell when we will reach the appropriate level of pressure to end firing on the Galilee. [end recording]

Briefs Ambassadors on Operation

TA2607165193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operations in Lebanon are limited. According to Peres, every evening the cabinet is examining whether there is any deviation from the objectives determined by the government. Foreign Minister Peres told foreign ambassadors that Israel does not want to deviate from the necessary activities, but does not want to succumb to terrorists who want to kill the peace process. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that the foreign minister emphasized that the IDF operation is creating pressure on Lebanon, Syria, and the residents of south Lebanon, with a view toward forcing them to pressure Hizballah in return.

Major General Amnon Shahaq, the deputy chief of staff, told the ambassadors that as long as Hizballah does not change its behavior, the operation will continue.

Beilin on Lebanon Situation, Christopher Visit

TA2707150493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1322 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Gay Zohar and Pnina Bat-Tzvi—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Is there already the beginning of some sort of negotiations, political pressure, or whatever that could bring about an end to the hostilities along the border?

[Beilin] I am convinced that the Lebanese Government can not remain indifferent to the developments, and it understands or will be forced to realize that it must fulfill

a role with regard to Hizballah. A role that it may find uncomfortable and that it has refrained from assuming until now.

[Zohar] To what degree are the Americans involved already? What is the significance of the shortening of Secretary of State Christopher's trip to the Far East?

[Beilin] Clearly, the decision to shorten the visit is a significant one. The fact that he will return to the United States before leaving for the Middle East proves that this issue now has a much higher priority on the U.S. agenda. However, as yet this decision still has no operative significance. I spoke with Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich about one hour ago, and we still have no details. However, the degree of involvement or Christopher's decision will definitely have an effect; although I hope that by the time Christopher arrives in our region the Israeli military operation in Lebanon will be behind us.

[Bat-Tzvi] Deputy Minister Beilin, a senior source was quoted in today's papers as saying that was a mini war of attrition, not a blitz operation, and that the most determined party would win. Is this really a mini war of attrition?

[Beilin] I do not know. Nor am I familiar with the author of this assessment. Everyone has their own definitions. I have only one definition: The most moderate and peace seeking government Israel has ever had since 1948 is also perhaps the most determined one with regard to terrorism, and once the Galilee stops being attacked we will wrap up this war of attrition or whatever you choose to call it. Therefore, I very much hope, and I also believe that it is realistic to believe that we are not talking about a long process but rather a very brief episode.

[Zohar] But how can it end as long as Hizballah keeps firmly declaring that it will not surrender? On the contrary, they are daring us to go in.

[Beilin] Our war is not against Hizballah's words but against their deeds. One can assume they will continue talking, but I hope they will cease their actions.

[Zohar] And the sole measure of this is whether or not they fire katyushas?

[Beilin] That is the main criterion which has featured most prominently in our relations with the terrorist organizations in Lebanon for years.

[Zohar] But judging from the lessons we have learned on other occasions, should this objective not be anchored in some kind of agreement or political talks, or by some kind of direct contact—or indirect contact through the Syrians—with the Hizballah?

[Beilin] Look, undoubtedly our interest is to reach some kind of arrangement or peace agreement with the Lebanese Government, within the framework of which the Hizballah militia will be disarmed. We will be ready to completely terminate our presence in Lebanon. Israel has no territorial interest in Lebanon and we never made any claims to Lebanese territory. However, within the present context of the recent attacks by Hizballah, the firing of the katyusha rockets at the Galilee, we are not talking about any agreement with Hizballah nor with anyone else. Our aim is to stop the attacks against our townships and then we will be able to halt our activities, which were designed expressly for this goal.

[Bat-Tzvi] Deputy Minister Beilin, I would like to ask you a question that we posed to our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck earlier. How much has the situation deteriorated prior to Warren Christopher's scheduled visit? Was this exacerbation planned?

[Beilin] An exacerbation that was planned by Hizballah?

[Bat-Tzvi] And by Syria and Lebanon?

[Beilin] I do not know. In my very humble assessment, I do not think that there was any planned exacerbation by Syria or Lebanon. Our problem with Syria, and mainly with Lebanon, is their lack of determination to keep an eye on Hizballah and prevent it from carrying out its attacks. I do not believe that these two countries, and certainly not Lebanon, use Hizballah to achieve their political goals vis-a-vis Israel.

[Zohar] Yes, but you can certainly imagine a scenario where Syria is waiting for Christopher to come in order to gain a few points in its own dealings with Israel, and will only intervene in the conflict later in order to assume the mantle of mediator or peacemaker.

[Beilin] Look, I do not think that this is a battle over prestige. I do not mind if Syria is crowned peacemaker as long there is peace.

[Zohar] When you spoke with Ambassador Rabinovich an hour ago, was Christopher's visit still on? Is it still scheduled to start on 1 August?

[Beilin] Yes, there has been no change in his schedule so far.

[Zohar] Will the preparatory team also arrive on time?

[Beilin] I think so, but right now it appears that Christopher himself will arrive on time, and I cannot be sure about the other dates.

[Zohar] Thank you, Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin.

Rabinovich: Christopher Visit Not Canceled

TA2607171493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to Washington Itamar Rabinovich by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Friedman] We have just carried an initial report that U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, who was due in

the region in a few days might, has perhaps already decided to cancel his visit. Do you know anything about this?

[Rabinovich] No, the visit has not been canceled and the preparations for it continue as planned. The media probably received a hint from the secretary's entourage that such an option is being theoretically considered. I believe this follows the letters sent to the three relevant countries—Syria, Lebanon, and Israel—and the attempt to send a calming message from both Washington and the entourage on the road, in an attempt to attain calm before he arrives in the region.

[Mardor] You call it a calming message, but perhaps this is a deterrent message, a subdued threat?

[Rabinovich] Yes, it is a veiled threat that wishes to restore calm. I believe that the United States—which so far has been very restrained in its reaction to the events—would like to put an end to the cycle of violence and would not like the secretary of state's shuttle to be overshadowed by battles along the Israeli- Lebanese border. He would not like his mission to end up being devoted to attempts to secure a cease fire. This was not the aim of his visit.

[Friedman] Everyone here, from the prime minister to the chief of staff, hope political pressure will be applied on Syria and Iran—probably by the United States—believing that without it, the Israeli operation will not reach its designated goals. Have you noticed such pressures coming? Could this be the hint from Christopher's entourage?

[Rabinovich] I am not certain that the term pressure is in place. Also, I do not believe that the United States is today in any position to influence Iran with kind words. The United States is conducting a policy of containment against Iran. The two countries do not have a good rapport between them. Syria, on the other hand is interested in maintaining a good dialogue with the United States, and the United States had in fact dealt with this during the visit in the region of the U.S. peace team two weeks ago. The team relayed a message to Syria from us, but this did not yield fruit at the time. We all remember that the Syrian foreign minister retorted very aggressively, saying any attack on Lebanon will be considered an attack on Syria. At the same time, the United States still has the ability to calm Syria and make plain to it that a dialogue with the United States and real participation in a peace process do not coincide with tolerating terrorist organizations operations from Lebanon.

[Friedman] Being an expert of Syrian issues, can you explain the Syrian rationale, assuming that it is being rational when, on one hand, it is engaged in peace negotiations with us, while it does not stop, perhaps even encourages, belligerent moves in the region, which eventually might damage the peace process. What makes the Syrians tick?

[Rabinovich] I can discern a familiar pattern in al-Asad's modus operandi, which has nothing to do with rationality or irrationality. Al-Asad is a very rational player, though a very hot-tempered one. Al-Asad has always preferred to have one foot on each side of the line, instead of crossing it with both feet, and to play with as many open options as possible. One of the things that bother us in the negotiations with Syria is the fact that it continues relaying these dual messages. We very firmly remarked on this to the Syrians several times in the past. The U.S. media has also remarked on this firmly. We said that if they want to convince Israel, the United States, and the world at large that Syria has its mind set on making peace with Israel, it cannot host Ahmad Jibril in Damascus, allow the free passage of Iranian goods to Hizballah in Lebanon, and allow the operation from southern Syria of the al-Quds radio station which serves the Palestinian rejectionist front. This has always made us wonder. If you wish, what has been happening over the past few weeks in and around Lebanon is putting these questions in focus.

[Friedman] Is it possible that if Israel were more generous in the concessions to Syria, it could make it change its policy toward Hizballah? Syria might say that Lebanon will not be quiet without it; Israel can buy that quiet, and you know the price.

[Rabinovich] This may be part of the Syrian considerations. We tried to understand the Syrian conduct when the tension in Lebanon kept rising and Syria did nothing to calm it. Quite a few people in Israel and the United States asked themselves whether al-Asad is not preparing bargaining chips in anticipation of Christopher's arrival. We both tried to relay the message that this will not work, and it might boomerang. I believe that the events of the past two days prove us right.

[Friedman] Ambassador Rabinovich, have you received clear messages to Israel from the White House or the State Department to stop the firing?

[Rabinovich] No, we have received no such appeals. The official contacts and dialogue between us is guided by the attempt not to harm the peace process. No appeal of the type you mentioned has been made to us.

UN Ambassador Explains Operation to Security Council

TA2607213193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The UN Security Council consultations on the events in Lebanon were postponed until tomorrow evening, our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports. Lebanon had asked for a Security Council session.

Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi has sent a letter to the UNSC acting president saying that Israel decided to use military force in Lebanon as a last resort after months of restraint in the face of Hizballah and other

terror attacks. The letter says that the IDF operation is an act of self-defense, restricted to attacks on terrorist bases, and its aim is to restore calm and security for the northern settlements.

Sarid Comments on Operation Objectives

TA2607153493 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid in the Jerusalem studio by Yisra'el Segal—live]

[Text] [Segal] Good evening, Minister Yosi Sarid.

[Sarid] Good evening.

[Segal] Do you think the government was mistaken in its decision to launch Operation Accountability?

[Sarid] I think that all the ministers—myself included—agree on the objectives of the government. All of us share two objectives: First, to defend the northern settlements. Second, to deliver a painful strike to Hizballah. The differences of opinion relate to the measures and methods used rather than to the aims of the operation. It is possible to have differences of opinion regarding the question of how to provide the best protection for the residents of the Galilee without exposing them to additional and unnecessary danger. It is also possible to disagree over how to sharply hurt Hizballah without suffering a return blow. I think that when the government is directed by two extremely significant and unanimous aims it is in a good position, and so is the entire country. I believe that such a free, open, serious, matter-of-fact, and sometimes even sharp debate is a good sign for the government. A government of yes-men is a dangerous government generally, and especially whenever we are dealing with issues of war and peace, life and death.

[Segal] You spoke of a free and open debate, yet you are refusing to explain to the public what your specific reservations were regarding the government's method of operation.

[Sarid] Look, I was referring to an open debate within the government. I told you what the differences of opinion are about—they do not concern the objectives, rather the measures. I have no intention to go into detail, and this is for two reasons. First, I shoulder the burden of the government's collective responsibility. Whatever the government decides binds me as well—otherwise I would have to resign from the government, and I have no intention of doing so. The second reason is even more important: I have no intention of divulging details to the other side, that is, to the cruel enemy facing us, who deserves to be severely punished.

[Segal] You are saying all this despite the fact that there are differences of opinion within the government, as you said after the cabinet session.

[Sarid] Yes. There are differences of opinion, and this is how things should be. Imagine that the cabinet would discuss the most significant issues on the agenda and all the ministers would completely agree about the measures which should be employed—I am not talking about objectives. I think such yes-manship would be a very dangerous thing. We are blessed by a government which is agreed on the objectives, but which seriously discusses everything which relates to the measures.

[Segal] Mr. Sarid, on 25 June 1982, during the Lebanon war, you were interviewed by Amnon Barzilay. In that interview you ruminated whether a public figure who holds unpopular views should postpone criticism until after the fact. You also said that if such a person believes that people are blind to the truth, it is his duty to speak out loud. What has changed from the days of the Lebanon war to the present situation in terms of a public figure's duty?

[Sarid] Nothing has changed, and I fulfilled my duty faithfully, only within the government and not publicly, as is right and proper for a government member. However, there is absolutely no resemblance between the Lebanon War in 1982 and the present situation. Yitzhaq Rabin as prime minister is not Menahem Begin, who was totally unfamiliar with the war and was absolutely out of control. Yitzhaq Rabin, on the other hand, firmly controls all the government moves. Yitzhaq Rabin as defense minister is not Ari'el Sharon, and Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq is not Refa'el Eytan. Consequently there is no danger of deception or deceit. There is an even much more significant difference: The Likud government of 1982 had a well-planned initiative, to reach Beirut. Our government does not want to reach Beirut or anywhere near Beirut. The Likud government wanted to establish a new order in Lebanon. We know that there is no possibility of establishing a new order in Lebanon—even the Lebanese themselves cannot accomplish this. The Likud government in 1982 wanted to achieve long-term and absolute calm in the north. Our government is sober and realistic and knows that this objective is unattainable. It knows that we must fight terrorism, but is also familiar with the limitations, and therefore there is no danger that the present operation would even start to resemble the Lebanon war. Any such comparison is tantamount to a comparison of two opposites.

[Segal] How long will the operation continue? Do you believe that it will end prior to the visit of Warren Christopher next Sunday [1 August]? Is this some kind of deadline which binds the government?

[Sarid] I would not say that this date binds us, but it is a significant date and I sincerely share the assessment of the prime minister, who believes that this is a short-term operation which will end within several days—I think I heard him say this.

[Segal] Do you think this operation has harmed the peace process?

[Sarid] Absolutely not. It has nothing to do with the peace process. Our only concern is the security of the north. We are not concerned about harming the peace process—not because the peace process is unworthy of concern, but because we are dealing here with Hizballah terrorists who are the enemy of the peace process. A blow to Hizballah will only encourage the peace process.

[Segal] Allow me to update you and our viewers. NBC television has just announced that Secretary of State Christopher might postpone his visit in Israel. Is this not a significant development?

[Sarid] It is significant, but not to the point of changing my opinion that striking a blow at Hizballah will only help the peace process, for the simple reason that Hizballah is the enemy of peace, and as such we have to deal with it. Those who are concerned about the peace process should be in favor of striking Hizballah.

[Segal] Thank you very much, Minister Yosi Sarid.

Suspected U.S. Hamas Member Released From Jail

TA2407175793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] Muhammad Jarrad, a U.S. citizen of Palestinian descent who was detained upon arriving in Israel six months ago on suspicion of having transferred funds for Hamas activities, was released from detention at the Ramallah jail. East Jerusalem sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that upon release he was told he had to leave Israel within four days. Military sources noted that Jarrad was released yesterday and that he has to leave Israel by Thursday. [29 July]

Amman Offering Mirage, Other Aircraft For Sale

JN2607134393 Amman AL-MASIRAH in Arabic 26 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] Western defense sources have confirmed that Jordan has sold several combat aircraft, military transport planes, and helicopters over the past few months.

Other Western sources reported that Jordan is currently offering to sell 14 Mirage F-1 aircraft. Greece and Spain are considering purchasing these aircraft, which, according to the sources, are in good condition because of their low number of flight hours.

The same sources said selling 14 Mirage F-1 aircraft will provide $200 million for the Jordanian treasury.

Western sources have also noted that Jordan plans to sell four U.S. F-5 Tiger combat aircraft to Indonesia. The U.S. Administration had previously barred the deal on the grounds of human rights violations by the Indonesian Government against the opposition.

PLO-Jordan Moves Toward Confederation Viewed

JN2607104093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 93 pp 1, 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agree that a confederation is the most ideal relationship between Jordan and the Palestinians, but Amman and the PLO leadership are expressing the same idea in different languages.

While Jordan has consistently maintained that it is too early to discuss the confederation proposal before the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations produce concrete results, senior PLO officials, including Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, have sought to renew attention on the issue after letting it dormant for over one year now.

Mr. 'Arafat was quoted as saying in reports from Yemen Saturday that Jordan and the PLO had already signed an agreement on confederal relations, but Jordanian officials deny the existence of such an accord.

Notwithstanding the fact that there cannot be a middle ground between the two arguments—"either there is an agreement or there isn't one," as one analyst put it—political observers view this "variation" in positions as a reflection of the visions of each side on future relations and the motives and objectives sought from such a future union.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) decided as far back as 1984 that a future Palestinian state should have confederal ties with Jordan after the Palestinians regain their right to self-determination.

In recent comments, Mr. 'Arafat and senior PLO officials as well as the leadership of the mainstream Fatah group have emphasised this point and said that a confederation should be the result of the natural choice of the two people after a peace agreement is signed with Israel.

In his comments reported Saturday, Mr. 'Arafat said that "there is a written agreement between the PLO and the Jordanian government on this issue."

Mr. 'Arafat was apparently referring to a four-page "agreement between the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO" signed on Oct. 20, 1991, ten days before the start of the Madrid Middle East peace conference.

The agreement refers to confederation as the ultimate future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship after Palestinians achieve self- determination.

A former senior Jordanian official, who was party to signing the agreement with the PLO, said that the "objective of the agreement, from Jordan's point of view, was to coordinate the work of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks."

"It was not an agreement on confederation although confederation was mentioned as the ultimate relationship between the two sides," he said.

Most of the four-page agreement, co-signed by Mr. 'Arafat and then-Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, related to issues concerning coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides to the joint delegation to the peace talks and preparations for negotiations with Israel.

"If the Palestinians are referring to this agreement as an agreement on confederation, then this is not the case as far as we are concerned," another Jordanian official said.

The October 1991 agreement says that "the Jordanian and Palestinian sides agree on the objectives and basis mentioned in this paper for the following aims: "Directing their work and joint effort regarding the peace process in the current stage and formulating visions for the future relationship between Jordan and Palestine within the framework of a confederation."

It also said "a committee would be formed to formulate concepts on the formula for future Jordanian-Palestinian confederal relationship."

One of the general objectives of the agreement was "the exercise of the Palestinian people of the right to self-determination leading to the achievement of the Palestinian-Jordanian confederal union."

Last month, the joint Jordanian-Palestinian political committee that was named in October following the signing of the agreement met for the first time to discuss means of strengthening Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and formulating visions for relationships during the five-year interim period and the final status of the occupied territories.

Jordanian and PLO officials agreed that the forming of these committees was long overdue, and both said that these committees were the first practical step towards a future relationship called "confederation."

But Jordanian officials said no fixed formulations have been presented on the features of the future relationship that would bind Jordan and a Palestinian entity which would emerge from peace talks.

Another Jordanian official said he did not know what Mr. 'Arafat was referring to when he said a "written agreement" between the PLO and the Jordanian government on confederation exists.

"We don't consider the October agreement as an accord on confederation," he said.

While some PLO officials call for an early agreement on confederation between the PLO and Jordan, Jordanian officials stress that a confederation would only be formed after Palestinians achieve self-determination and establish their own independent entity. on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Political analysts view the PLO's eagerness to declare confederation with Jordan as an escape from the deadlock that the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have reached.

The PLO also wants to know the features of the final status of the occupied territories in advance and seeks a role in the final status arrangements.

Furthermore, the issues negotiated in the agendas of the Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli tracks have become so detailed and inter-locked that stronger Palestinian-Jordanian coordination was required for progress to be achieved.

But Jordan refuses to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, and says it would continue to assist Palestinians in order to allay any fears that stronger coordination with Jordan would erode the Palestinian independent identity, Jordanian officials say.

The officials complain that Palestinian-Jordanian coordination was not as strong as it should have been, but add that Palestinians have overcome their concerns that a minimum degree of coordination with Jordan would overshadow their independency.

PLO officials said there is a "new Jordanian look to future relationship with the Palestinians... it is the recognition that a separate and independent Palestinian entity should be established in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A Jordanian official confirmed that "confederation that does not acknowledge Palestinian sovereignty in the occupied territories is not an option for Jordan.

A senior political advisor to Mr. 'Arafat, Nabil Sha'th told the Jordan Times by telephone from Cairo that the Palestinian vision of a confederation with Jordan rests on the idea that it would only be decided after Palestinians establish their own state and the people decide to unite with Jordan in a confederation.

"Confederation should not be imposed on either the Jordanian or the Palestinian people," Dr. Sha'th said.

He said that confederation would be formed "between a future Palestinian government and the Jordanian government, but there would be no confederation during the negotiating process."

Explaining why Palestinians were currently speaking publicly of confederation with Jordan, Dr. Sha'th said: "We speak from a national unity perspective."

Explaining further, he said the Palestinian people would be faced with two future options: "They either remain under Israeli control if they go west (confederation with Israel) or they affirm their Arab identity by going East (confederation with Jordan).

"Without doubt, we opt for future relationships with Jordan."

'Arafat Remarks on Confederation Hailed

JN2507135193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jul 93 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Unsuccessful Israeli, U.S. Attempts"]

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's remarks in Sanaa the day before yesterday in which he stated that the establishment of a confederation between the states of Jordan and Palestine in a free and voluntary manner was a resolution adopted by the Palestine National Council, have reaffirmed the policies of the Jordanian and Palestinian leadership concerning the special and historical relationship between them.

The Jordanian leadership has repeatedly said that the confederation between Jordan and Palestine is subject to the will of the two peoples and their free, democratic choice following the liberation of the land and the establishment of an independent Palestinian entity. Therefore, the two peoples' free will is the only means by which a suitable formula and an appropriate framework for their relationship can be established.

The statements by Israeli and U.S. circles on the confederation issue these days is an attempt to link this option with what is going on inside and outside the talks. It is a new attempt to circumvent the core of the peace process and wedges of division and doubt among the Arab sides that are participating in this process. It is an attempt to cast doubt on the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, topped by their right to self-determination, which will confirm their right to choose their political entity by their independent free will and select the form of the relationship they want with others.

The unity between the Jordanians and Palestinians, which has been deepened and strengthened over the

years, cannot be a bargaining chip in the hand of the Israeli side or the U.S. "sponsor" in order to pressure on the Arab negotiators, especially the Palestine side, compelling them to submit to blackmail and stalling in setting things right and implementing Resolutions 242 and 338.

By specifying the form of the future relationship between Jordan and Palestine, as defined by the two leaderships over the years since the beginning of the peace process and during the Madrid conference, the two leaderships have preempted all attempts at distortion and disinformation and emphasizing the independence of the decisionmaking of the two sides, particularly the Palestinians.

Details 'Not Yet Discussed'

JN2607073193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 93 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and Palestine have not yet discussed any details related to the projected confederation between Palestine and Jordan, Minister of Information Ma'n Abu-Nuwar said here Sunday.

The minister, who heads the Jordanian side to a Jordanian-Palestinian political committee set up to discuss coordination between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan, said a sub-committee to discuss the idea of a confederation has not been formed and the terms of reference of all the sub-committees merging from the joint committee have not yet been finalised.

Speaking to several journalists at the Ministry of Information following the swearing in of 15 new Jordan Press Association (JPA) members, Dr. Abu-Nuwar said talk about the confederation gives the impression that the stage has been set for this political move.

Asked to comment on the reported arrest of some people in Jordan, the minister said there have been reports that aim to distort facts and give the wrong impression about the country and its stability.

Israel and other foreign circles lie behind such distorted reports, said the minister.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar added that it is wrong of the media to meddle in cases still under examination by the Jordanian courts and it is improper for the media to meddle in judicial procedures.

The minister cited what he called an interference on the part of the Lower House of Parliament during the al-Nafir group court trial, which he said forced the presiding judge to defend himself before the public.

Commenting on the reported plans for the amendment of the election law, Dr. Abu-Nuwar said, the subject has not yet been discussed by the government.

The minister disclosed that the Ministry of Information was preparing a national information strategy which, he said, aims at contributing towards safeguarding the country's security, freedom and independence, and enhancing national unity.

The strategy, he said, is founded on Arab and Islamic values and respect for human rights.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar said it also aims to enhance inter-Arab solidarity and divisions among Arab countries, among other objectives.

He pledged to provide support for the JPA and urged the new journalists to work hard and defend their profession.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar called on the journalists to uphold the ethics of the profession and employ it in ways to defend the country and to contribute to its stability and security.

He said journalists are urged to support the Kingdom's democratic process and defend human rights in their writings and various tasks.

Attending the swearing in ceremony was JPA President Sulayman al- Qudah who said the JPA law, which aims at serving the journalists' interest, contains some loopholes which the JPA Council is striving to plug.

The new JPA members took an oath before the minister of information. They include three journalists from the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and 12 from private sector periodicals.

The new members bring the total JPA roster to 230.

Transfer of Wanted Palestinian to Israel Denied

JN2407170593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 93 p 10

[By Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Jordan Friday categorically denied an Israeli newspaper report that it last week handed a wanted Palestinian to Israeli authorities.

The Israeli daily Davar Friday quoted the family of Muhammad al- Bilbaysi as claiming that Mr. al-Bilbaysi was arrested by Jordanian authorities upon return from Saudi Arabia on July 14 and was inter [as published] driven to a bridge over the Jordan River and handed over to Israel.

"It is absolutely untrue. It didn't happen," Minister of Information Ma'n Abu-Nuwar told the Jordan Times Friday. "It is a fabricated story."

In the report, which was carried by Reuter news agency, the Israeli paper said Mr. al-Bilbaysi fled the occupied West Bank in 1987 after the Israeli authorities tried to arrest him in connections with bombings in Tel Aviv.

The paper said the 30-year-old man from the West Bank village of Salfit had been forced by Jordanian authorities to leave the country. It said he worked in Saudi Arabia and visited Jordan periodically until his alleged arrest by Jordanian authorities on July 14 when he wanted to reside in the country.

The paper said the family of Mr. al-Bilbaysi sought the help of an Israeli human rights organisation to determine his whereabouts. It quoted an official of the organisation as saying that Israeli authorities have admitted having Mr. al-Bilbaysi but did not reveal where he is being held. The human rights group Friday asked the Israeli high court to order authorities to disclose his location.

Reuter said Israeli army officials declined comment on the report that Mr. al-Bilbaysi was handed over to them by Jordanian authorities.

Islamists Urging Government To Bow Out of Peace Talks

Deputies To Lobby Against Talks

JN2607074493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Deputies opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks are turning up the pressure on the government in a bid to force it to abandon what they call "the surrender talks which would only strip the Arabs of more of their rights."

Thirty-one Muslim Brotherhood, independent Islamist and leftist legislators Sunday formed a committee to translate what one deputy referred to as the wide public opposition to the talks into an active lobbying group that would pressure the government into dropping the 21-month-old negotiations.

The deputies, who a month ago issued a strong statement against the talks, formed the committee during an informal meeting called for by the 23-strong Muslim Brotherhood parliamentary bloc. Thirty- four deputies signed the statement. Parliamentarians who did not sign it were not invited to the meeting.

The Muslim Brotherhood-dominated committee will form a parliamentary anti-peace talks front and ask for the help of political activists and "the people" in urging the government to withdraw from the peace negotiations, spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood bloc Ibrahim Khuraysat told the Jordan Times after the meeting, which took place at the Parliament building.

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc is the staunchest opponent of the talks in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament and has repeatedly urged the government to withdraw from the negotiations.

The anti-talks campaign would include speeches, rallies, lectures and other similar activities which Brotherhood Deputy Hammam Sa'id hoped the people would support.

"It is the first time that we ask the people to express their views on the (peace talks) and we hope they would support the call," Dr. Sa'id said.

Dr. Sa'id stopped short of admitting that the government would not heed the demand to drop the talks, but said that what matters is that deputies fulfil "their responsibilities" towards the people.

"We are doing our duty, which on itself is an achievement. It does not matter whether the government responds or not because what we are doing is something for which we are responsible before the people," Dr. Sa'id said.

Dr. Sa'id dismissed as untrue interpretations that the campaign represents an electioneering bid by the Brotherhood to boost its image ahead of the country's next parliamentary elections, scheduled for November this year.

The anti-talks campaign is "a word of truth that might not receive the support of all. It might not lead to gains," he said.

Mr. Khuraysat said the campaign was an effort to stop "the surrender" process.

"The future of the nation is in a very grave danger and the talks would take from the Arabs what remains of what they have of their rights," said Dr. Sa'id. The campaign is to stop that, he said.

Role in Peace Process Defended

JN2607075493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Genuine Efforts or Political Gimmick?"]

[Text] When Jordan and other Arab parties involved in the Middle East peace talks agreed to the launching of the peace process in Madrid almost two years ago, they did so out of their belief that negotiations are the only viable means for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and achieving real peace in the region. War had lost its credibility as an option, and the no-war-no-peace situation that prevailed in the area for too long was taking an alarming toll on the peoples of their area and their resources.

That said, we fail to understand the vehement calls of the Muslim Brotherhood deputies and their allies to abandon the process. We further fail to understand why, two years after the process was launched, the 31 deputies who met in Parliament Sunday at the call of the Brotherhoood bloc, decided to turn up the pressure on the government to drop the negotiations. All the deputies are

doing is say no to the peace process. [sentence as published] They are not offering an alternative or detailed plan on how Jordan is supposed to abandon the negotiations when all other involved Arab parties are determined to see the process through to the end. The Muslim Brotherhood deputies and their odd allies had more than a fair chance to translate their opposition to the negotiations into solid action when the House was in session. The fact that they did not utilise this chance when they could have done so in an effective way, i.e. withdraw confidence from the successive governments that sanctioned the negotiations, leaves us with one explanation: the deputies are tapping on the sentiments of people angry and disheartened with the failure of the negotiations so far to produce tangible results to make electoral gains and political statements that do not take into account the national interests of the country, obviously best served by sticking to the peace process.

The deputies are entitled to their opinions but they have no right to accuse the country of what it is not doing. The peace talks are not a surrender as the Brotherhood likes to call them. Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians are not abandoning their rights by participating in the peace talks. All through the process, the Arab parties have said that they will not compromise on any of their rights in the occupied territories. What they are doing is negotiating the return of their rights on the basis of United Nations resolutions and in a way that would lead to the realisation of the Palestinian people's rights in their land. That is not surrender. It is a path that a regime responsible for protecting the interests of its people is following as the only viable option. The peace talks have thus far been the only reasonable way for attempting to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Parties opposed to it should provide an alternative, or forever keep silent.

U.S. 'Abandonment' of Resolution 242 Seen

JN2407170093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 93 p 4

[Editorial by G.H. Jansen: "Dangerous Sea Change!"]

[Text] A momentous change, a change of seismic proportions in U.S. policy on the Palestine problem apparently became official on Wednesday, June 21 according to an answer given by Secretary of State Warren Christopher at a press conference in Washington before leaving on an extended foreign tour which will bring him to West Asia on Aug 1.

The quite specific question was put by a senior correspondent of the Associated Press: "Is it U.S. government policy that the West Bank and Gaza, and East Jerusalem, is occupied territory?" Blinking nervously, as is his wont, the secretary refused to say, "Yes" without saying "No", in one of his usual-long rambling answers. The words he used were: "The status of the West Bank and Jerusalem were under active negotiation" and he did not want to get involved in the details.

Ever since the end of June or early July Washington has been letting slip that the West Bank and Gaza were no longer considered "occupied territories" but "disputed territories," sovereignty over which had yet to be negotiated. Now that hugely important, but so far, covert shift in policy has been almost officially confirmed and by no less a person than the secretary of state.

This could be the end of the foundation of the so-called "peace process," which since 1967 has been Resolutions 242 and 338. Those two resolutions have been referred to so often as having become a sort of semi-mystical mantra, a ritualistic chant. And because the territories were "occupied" the corollary was that, sometime, they would be vacated and returned to the former owner, Jordan, or to its successor, the PLO. Hence the talks about the principles of "land for peace" and "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force."

Any negotiation about sovereignty in and ownership of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, in which the U.S. has a part, will inevitably end up with sovereignty being awarded to Israel with the U.S. foursquare behind it, which will assert its ownership also because, in the meantime, Israel would have forcibly appropiated most of the territory anyway.

That result of the U.S. abandonment of 242 is bad enough, but it is limited in extent. Yet there is a much larger ill-effect unlimited in scope. By stepping back from a Security Council resolution which the U.S. itself helped to draft, which the U.S. voted for in the council, and which successive U.S. administrations have made the bedrock of their West Asia policy—only last year President George Bush repeated the fact that East Jerusalem was "occupied territory"—the Clinton administration has undermined, perhaps fatally the entire U.N. system.

That system is about contentious issues being brought to the world body which debates them, produces resolutions, which when passed, are at least supposed to be observed and implemented by member states; especially if they are mandatory council resolutions like 242. After what Christopher said on Wednesday, however, U.N. resolutions will become like items of food on a buffet table—some can be chosen and others neglected, according to choice and taste. For 26 years 242 "tasted" all right to the U.S., but since the Clinton administration took over it no longer does so and can be put aside.

The world has become used to changes of policy and of personnel in the U.S. when the Democrats take over from the Republicans or vice-versa. But there has to be continuity of certain basic principles, like the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. Otherwise the international community would collapse into chaos and would not be a "community" because no one single country would know, for more than a few years at a time, where any other country stood on any particular issue.

It could be argued that the abandonment of 242 has come about because the Clinton administration's West

Asia policy is now firmly controlled by American Jewish pro-Israeli Zionists who fill almost all important policy positions in the State Department, the White House and the National Security Council.

But faced with this abandonment of the basic principles of the peace process and of the Madrid formula, the only effective response that the Arabs, and especially the Palestinians, could give would be a final withdrawal from that process, and a refusal to return to Washington for the 11th round of the talks.

Every country that in any way depends on Security Council resolutions should take note of the grave dangers produced by the U.S. abandonment of 242.

Israeli Raid on Lebanon Seen Undermining Peace

JN2707091093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jul 93 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Israel Shells the Peace Process"]

[Text] The Israeli ground, air, and sea aggression on Lebanon is not simply a military retaliation against Lebanese resistance operations targeting Zionist settlements, through which Yitzhaq Rabin's government seeks to justify its attacks on most of the Lebanese territories, particularly since this aggression is becoming more like an open war that portends the gravest consequences for Lebanon and the entire region.

When Israel embarks on a large-scale aggression against Lebanon in retaliation for a Katyusha falling here and there, it is aware in advance of any political complications that could accompany and follow this aggression. This is especially so in this case, since the aggression coincides with uninterrupted diplomatic efforts to push the peace process forward and resume the bilateral negotiations, which have recently reached an impasse.

While targeting Lebanon and provoking Syria through its continuous aggression, Israel cannot but be aware of what this aggression may lead to in terms of direct negative results, not only on two main Arab parties to the peace negotiations but on all the Arab parties. These Arab parties are becoming more convinced that Israel is hiding behind the peace process in order to peddle its settlement schemes and justify its barbaric attacks.

Perhaps reports attributed to U.S. sources that the U.S. Secretary of State might cancel his imminent visit to the Middle East represent one of the most severe negative consequences of such an Israeli aggression. This aggression aims at obstructing the U.S. efforts to resume the peace process and weakening Arab agreement to participate in the negotiations. Indeed, it is aimed at undermining the fragile foundations of the peace process, which has not achieved any progress throughout the past 21 months.

In light of all this, we believe that the continued Israeli ground, air, and sea shelling in Lebanon targets more than just resistance positions, and goes beyond the framework of Lebanese territories. The shelling is also addressed to more than one of the parties concerned with developments in this region, and directly and very clearly targets the peace process, a process which Rabin's government considers as nothing more than an attempt to dictate capitulation terms on the Arabs, make them accept the continuation of the occupation, and grant Israel natural membership as one of the Middle East nations.

Turkish Minister Continues Official Visit to Amman

Received by Crown Prince

JN2607200393 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin discussed the Middle East peace process, stressing the need to reach a just and lasting peace in the region. They underlined Arab rights, including that of the Palestinians to self-determination on their national soil. Prince Hasan and the Turkish minister also discussed current international developments, namely, the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The talks also touched on ways of promoting economic and cultural relations between Jordan and Turkey. The regent told Turkish television after the meeting that Jordan and Turkey shared concern over the future of the Middle East and developments in the Balkans.

[Begin Hasan recording] May I say what a pleasure it has been for us to receive Foreign Minister Cetin in Amman. The issues highlighted today included the shared concern for the future of the Middle East region—a concern that we share with Turkey in the context of developments in the Balkans, in the context of Central Asia, and indeed closer at the home in the context of the Arab- Israeli conflict and the peace process. But may I say the primary concern that we share is for the stability of this region in the face of ethnic and sectarian conflict—a concern that is based on our commitment to democratic principles and to pluralism.

I would like to thank Foreign Minister Cetin for his insights and to [as published] Turkish policy, particularly in the context of the Organization of Islamic Conference, where we have an identity of views on the need to arrest the continuing violence in Bosnia and indeed the identity of views in terms of the need for an activation of the peace process, particularly against the background of the tragic outbreak of violence in the Lebanon, which, as you know, is going on to the moment that we are taking now. Violence can only produce violence, and the spiral cannot be acceptable, particularly in the context of the renewed attempts by the United States Administration to give meaning and momentum to the peace talks. [end recording]

Cetin on Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina

TA2607134493 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0950 GMT 26 Jul 93 .

[Text] Amman, July 26 (AA)—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin on Sunday warned that the Bosnian population will become the "Palestinians of Europe" if a speedy end to the tragedy in the former Yugoslav republic is not brought about.

Currently in Jordan for an official three-day visit, Cetin said the international community should make more serious efforts to stop the tragedy in Bosnia, adding that Turkey is sensitive to this issue. He also reminded reporters that Turkey has made clear its readiness to send troops to Bosnia if asked by the United Nations.

He was speaking to reporters following meetings with Talal al- Hasan, Jordanian state minister in charge of foreign affairs, and Planning Minister Dr. Ziyad Fariz, during which Cetin made clear Turkey's point of view on such important issues as the current situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Azerbaijan, and Cyprus.

On the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, Cetin said the whole world should realize that Armenia does not wish for a peaceful solution and is continuing to invade Azeri land despite making statements calling for a ceasefire and peace.

"Armenia should know it will not remain in invaded territories," he said.

Cetin said during his visit in Jordan, bilateral economic and political relations were discussed. Cetin made clear that there are no problems between the two countries, but said that existing economic relations are well below the potentials of both countries.

Islamic Leader Freed After 'Arafat Intervenes

JN2307164893 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 24 Jul 93 p 4

[Text] Al-Shumaysani, Amman—Jordanian security authorities last Thursday released Ma'mun Bayyud al-Tamimi, member of the Palestine National Council, after keeping him in custody for three days. In a statement to SHIHAN, al-Tamimi, a leader of the Islamic Jihad, said that the security authorities arrested him after he was returned by the Yemeni Government from Sanaa Airport under the pretext that he was carrying a forged passport.

Al-Tamimi noted that the security authorities questioned him on the military operations carried out by the Islamic Jihad against the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon. He added that the security authorities informed him that his movement has crossed the line by shelling territories occupied in 1948, as this undermines the peace process, particularly since the Jihad Movement is headquartered in Jordan.

Al-Tamimi added that Palestinian President 'Arafat personally intervened to release him. SHIHAN obtained a copy of a message the Jihad Movement addressed to President 'Arafat informing him of al- Tamimi's release. The message also contains 'Arafat's response in which he says: "Together we will march until victory; we will march to liberated Jerusalem, with God's help."

Israeli Shelling, Resistance Attacks Reported 26 Jul

Tank Reported Destroyed

NC2607151793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The shelling of several areas in the south has now intensified. The villages of Shukin, (Maytam), al-Nabatiyah, Tallat al-Kufur, and Wadi Mayfadun are coming under fire. Phosphorous shells are falling on Shukin-Mayfadun road and near the Lebanon Television transmission booster in Shukin.

Meanwhile, the outer parts of Dayr al-Zahrani and Habbush are being shelled. [passage omitted]

In retaliation for the Zionist war against our kinsfolk and people in the south and western al-Biqa' and in order to show the continued resistance against the enemy and its spiteful aggressive actions, the Martyr Muhsin Milhim group of the Islamic Resistance attacked an enemy tank with machine guns and rockets at the entrance of Bra'shit post at 1610 today. The tank was destroyed, and its personnel were killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, the shelling of Jibshit is still going on, and a huge fire is engulfing the town's mosque, which came under intensive shelling. The towns of Kafr Tibnit, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah are also coming under fierce artillery shelling from the occupation positions in al-Zaffatah, 'Alman, and al-Shumariyah. [passage omitted]

Despite the intensive air raids, air traffic at Beirut Airport continued as normal today. A Civil Aviation official stressed that no flight to or from Beirut has been canceled.

Amal Claims Attack

NC2607142093 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The Amal Movement's information bureau has issued a statement in which it announced that Amal groups have attacked a number of Israeli positions in the central and eastern sectors of the south, scoring direct hits in the al-Shumariyah, Bra'shit, and al-Tuhurrah positions. Amal fighters returned fire at the Israeli artillery emplacements, scoring direct hits.

Israeli Soldier Reportedly Killed

NC2607154393 Paris AFP in English 1527 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, July 26 (AFP)—An Israeli soldier was killed by Shiite Muslim militiamen in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, security sources said.

The attack on the Israeli-held position of Bra'shit was claimed by the pro-Syrian Amal militia, they added.

Three Soliders Injured

TA2607190993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1855 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Report by military correspondent Netan'el Semrik]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has just reported that Corporal Gadi Su'ad, an IDF soldier, was killed this afternoon during an operation in the western sector of the security zone in south Lebanon. His family has been notified.

Three additional soldiers were slightly injured in this incident. The IDF soldier was killed by fire directed by the terrorists at an Army unit in the region. The incident took place about 1300 GMT.

Raids in South, Intense Shelling Continue 27 Jul

Statistics Given on Fire Exchange

NC2707062293 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0557 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Our correspondent in the border area in the south reported a few moments ago that four waves of katyusha rockets were fired at the border area and northern Israel last night. Security sources did not tell our correspondent the specific targets that the katyushas hit and what damage they caused.

Our correspondent also reported that Israeli bombardment is continuing and has intensified since 0600 today against all the villages that Israel has threatened to shell. He added that Israel has brought new troop reinforcements into the border area.

Citing security sources, our correspondent reported the following statistics, updated as of last night: 2,500 Israeli large-caliber shells have fallen on the south so far and 100 air raids have been carried out. In retaliation, 40 mortar shells and 140 rockets have been fired on the border area. Of these, 51 rockets fell on northern Israel.

Damage Reported

NC2707062393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0535 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Israel has converted the south into a wasteland. Israeli warplanes, helicopters, artillery, and naval forces continued to attack various areas in the south. The resistance retaliated by attacking the Israeli positions, particularly in Bra'shit where an Israeli was killed and others wounded.

Israeli helicopters raided Kafr Sir, Jabal Safi, and Zibqin this morning. The Israeli bombardment of Kafr Rumman, Kafr Tibnit, 'Arab Salim, and Jibshit grew violent this morning. Our correspondent has just reported that al-Nabatiyah has been coming under heavy shelling since 0815 today.

Our correspondent said that some 60 percent of the houses in Jibshit have been completely razed and that tens of houses in al-Nabatiyah have been destroyed. The correspondent noted that the shelling of al-Nabatiyah and its suburbs last night is unprecedented, even counting the Israeli invasion in 1982.

Our correspondent in Tyre said that the Israeli forces directed their shelling at 'Aytit, Siddiqin, Kafra, and the environs of Tibnin during the night. Israeli warplanes raided the suburbs of al-Sultaniyah and Tibnin last night. [passage omitted]

Morning Raids Reported

NC2707081793 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out a raid against Haris shortly before 0900 today, injuring seven people, including Maryam Dimashqi, Muhammad Hazim Dimashqi, and Jihad Dimashqi.

Before continuing our news summary, we have the following item from our news desk: In addition to the report about the wounded in the raid against Haris, we have learned that Jawad Musa, Hana' Musa, and Fu'ad Musa were also injured in that area. The houses of Muhammad Dimashqi, Husayn 'Ayyash, 'Abdallah al-Zayn, and Muhammad Na'im Hijazi have been completely demolished. Combat aircraft are flying over Tyre at this moment.

According to security reports, Israeli helicopters raided Kafr Sir, Jabal Safi, Zibqin, and al-Majadil at dawn today.

Dayr al-Zahrani and the road to Habbush continue to come under heavy bombardment. Villages in the al-Nabatiyah area and Iqlim al- Tuffah are coming under sporadic shelling. The Kafr Tibnit township has been isolated by the artillery attacks. Its citizens have requested urgent medical relief supplies.

Artillery attacks on al-Nabatiyah's Hayy al-Bayyad seriously wounded citizen 'Alya' Wahbah, who was transferred to Sidon for treatment. 'Ali Jum'ah's food warehouses in the town were set on fire by the shelling.

We have another report from our news desk: Our correspondent in the border area reported a few moments ago that katyushas fired from positions in western al-Biqa' have been falling on Marj 'Uyun for some time. In retaliation, Israeli artillery is shelling Yatar.

[(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0702 GMT on 27 July adds: "Israeli planes are currently raiding Jibal al-Butm and al-'Aziziyah. According to preliminary reports, four people have been wounded in Jibal al-Butm.

[(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0705 GMT further reports: "Another item from our news desk: Our correspondent in the north said a short time ago that Israeli warplanes are overflying the north. Unidentified fast gunboats are cruising off the northern coast. Israeli combat aircraft broke the sound barrier over Beirut and its environs a short time ago."]

Army Returns Israeli Fire

NC2707101493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] According to a military source, the area falling within the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] operating area was shelled, as were Lebanese Army positions in Habbush, 'Arab Salim, Mayfadun, Khartum, and Kafr Tibnit. The Army returned the fire, directing its artillery fire against the occupation forces' positions in al-Zaffatah and al-Tuhurrah. [passage omitted]

A UNIFIL officer has reported that Israeli planes carried out more than 100 raids between Sunday morning and Monday afternoon [25 and 26 July] including 51 raids against targets within the UNIFIL operations areas. The officer said 2,500 artillery shells of all calibers were fired at the UNIFIL area alone, representing only half of the entire area under attack. The officer added that the Lebanese resistance fired about 40 mortar shells and 140 katyusha rockets on the occupied border strip over a period of 30 hours. Of these, 51 katyusha rockets fell on northern Israel.

The UNIFIL officer said that the Israeli bombardment caused a widespread flight of citizens and that 120,000 people, out of a total population of 200,000 in 25 villages, have left their homes since Sunday.

Three Nepalese UN Soldiers Wounded

TA2707085293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] A UN position in southern Lebanon was hit about an hour ago. A UN spokesman reported that three Nepalese soldiers were wounded. According to news agencies reports from Lebanon, the position was hit by the Israeli Air Force, but sources in the security zone told our correspondent Menahem Horowitz that reference is probably to firing of katyushas by the terrorists.

Amal Official Killed

NC2707090393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0851 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk:

The Amal Movement's information bureau has announced that Hasib Jawad Dawud, official in charge of information in Ma'rub, was killed when the town was shelled this morning.

Hizballah Shells Israeli Positions

NC2707110993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] In reply to the Israeli shelling, the Islamic Resistance shelled the Zionist positions in al-Rayhan, al-'Ayshiyah, Sujud, and Bi'r Kallab with artillery a short a while ago.

According to the correspondent of the enemy radio in northern Palestine, the occupation forces have so far fired about 5,000 large-caliber artillery shells. The same correspondent reports that 150 katyushas have been fired at the enemy settlements in northern Palestine.

Attacks on al-Nabatiyah Continue

NC2707114193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1055 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Report by unidentified correspondent from al-Nabatiyah]

[Text] According to a preliminary count, four people have been killed; dozens have been wounded, and hundreds of houses and vehicles have been damaged by the concentrated Israeli artillery shelling of al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah since early this morning.

The Israelis are continuing a fierce, concentrated bombardment against all villages in the al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas. The shelling is extending at this moment to al-Nabatiyah's residential areas. Shells are falling at the rate of 25 per minute, hitting houses, vehicles, and crops. The shelling is accompanied by mock raids by Israeli combat aircraft.

Al-Nabatiyah's government hospital issued an appeal to all doctors in the area, particularly those employed by the government hospital, to report immediately to duty to help treat the wounded. Ambulances and Civil Defense vehicles cannot reach the town or nearby villages because of the intensive bombardment. Artillery shells are falling on all main and branch roads leading to the area.

The dead in al-Nabatiyah area are: Yusuf Nazih Ayyub in Haruf, Ahmad Halawah and Diana Siryani in Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, and Muhammad Ahmad Dakhlallah in Kafr Sir. There have been dozens of wounded, including Muhammad 'Ali Jum'ah, 'Alya' Wahbah, and Turfah Faqih in al-Nabatiyah, 'Ali Hayik and Fawzi Hayik in Kafr Tibnit, Ahmad Qazan, 'Ali Mahmud, and 'Abd-al-Wahhab Nahhal in Jibshit, and Fatimah Ghandur in Kafr Hatta.

Israeli warplanes carried out raids on the houses of Jamal, Kamal, and 'Ali Faqih in Kafr Tibnit at noon today. They also hit a house in Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and raided the Jabal Safi hills.

The citizens who have not fled their villages and homes are now caught inside shelters and the basements of buildings, waiting for any international or local action to halt this escalation. They are urging the state to supply them immediately with a way to hold out.

[(Clandestine Radio Free Lebanon at 1100 GMT on 27 July reports the following: "We learned a few moments ago that Israeli warplanes are raiding Hayy al-Bayyad in al-Nabatiyah].

Casualty Toll Updated

NC2707121093 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1135 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] The Israeli forces continue their military operations against the terrorists' positions in western al-Biqa' and the south. Israeli helicopters and artillery continue to bombard the terrorists' positions north of the border zone.

Israeli helicopters raided Siddiqin and Tyre at 1245. At 1400, helicopters raided Yatar, Kafr Matta, Kafr Tibnin, and Kafr Rumman. Meanwhile, Israeli warships bombarded Tyre and fired concussion shells.

According to the latest casualty toll, 16 people have so far been killed and 70 others wounded in today's operations.

Air Raid Hits Jba'

NC2707121393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided the Iqlim al-Tuffah village at 1445 today. The raid focused on the Jba' square.

The raid on al-Nabatiyah destroyed a four-story building.

The fierce shelling of most of al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah is continuing. In al-Nabatiyah, the shelling targeted the government offices where shells fell at the rate of more than 25 a minute.

The shelling of the al-Nabatiyah government offices damaged the gendarmerie post and destroyed a military vehicle.

Al-Hariri Goes to Syria; Army Commander Visits South

NC2707093993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0922 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Citing a source close to the prime minister, AFP reports that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri went this morning to Syria to hold talks with Syrian leaders on the current situation in south Lebanon. Now let us move to the editorial desk:

We have just learned that Army Commander General Emile Lahhud is touring the army positions in the south to familiarize himself with the situation on the ground in light of the continued Israeli shelling and attacks. This is all.

Al-Hariri Returns

NC2707130093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned from Damascus this afternoon after meeting with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The talks focused on the situation in south Lebanon. Al-Hariri is scheduled to brief the cabinet, which will hold an extraordinary session this evening, on the outcome of his talks in Damascus

Lahhud Visit Detailed

NC2707111893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1103 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk:

During his field tour of the front lines this morning, Army Commander General Emile Lahhud supervised the course of military operations in the south. The commander was briefed on the troops' preparedness and condition. Gen. Lahhud commended the troops' confrontation of the Israeli attacks.

The army commander met with the commander and officers of the brigades and units and gave instructions for the troops to continue their defense of the land and people, cling to their positions, and silence the sources of fire regardless of the consequences and sacrifices. Gen. Lahhud said that the Israeli threats would only increase the Lebanese Army's determination to perform its legitimate role in defense of the homeland.

Syrian Defense Minister Visits Troops in al-Biqa'

NC2707140093 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1340 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas today visited the Syrian forces that were targeted by the Israeli raids in western al-Biqa's inside Lebanon.

Dallul Voices Surprise at Christopher's Statement

NC2707100093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0930 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has voiced his surprise at the statement made by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher in which he held Hizballah responsible for the current developments in the south.

In a press statement, Dallul said: We are surprised at this statement and this unacceptable logic, which are attempts to evade Washington's responsibility.

Ministers Meet in Sidon To View Situation

NC2707091293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij, Health Minister Marwan Hamadah, Minister of State for Financial Affairs Fu'ad Sinyurah, Water Resources Minister Elie Hubayqah, and Economy and Trade Minister Hagop Demerdjian arrived in Sidon and immediately held a meeting at the city's Government House. The meeting was also attended by Deputies Bahiyah al-Hariri, Dr. Michel Musa, the governors of the south and al-Nabatiyah Halim Fayyad and Ghazi Zu'aytar, and several medical, Civil Defense, security, and military officials. The meeting will discuss ways of boosting the steadfastness of the citizens in the south vis-a-vis the ugly Israeli onslaught.

Higher Defense Council Issues Statement on Attacks

NC2607183493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Statement by Major General Yahya Ra'd, secretary general of the Higher Defense Council—recorded]

[Text] The Higher Defense Council met under the chairmanship of the president and in the presence of the prime minister and the ministers who are members of the Council. The health and information ministers also attended the meeting.

The conferees discussed the continuing Israeli attacks and assessed all the steps that have been taken and the ongoing contacts on political, diplomatic, security, social, and health levels.

His excellency the foreign minister briefed the conferees on the diplomatic contacts he had made with various international and Arab officials designed to stop the Israeli attacks.

The Army Command briefed the Council on the military situation on the ground and on the methods the Lebanese military establishment is using to confront the Israeli attacks.

The Higher Defense Council saluted the citizens' heroic steadfastness on their land and the resolve with which the Lebanese Army units are confronting the aggressive actions and boosting the citizens' steadfastness.

After the discussion, it was decided to adopt measures that will support and reinforce the citizens' steadfastness in their towns and villages by various effective methods. Instructions were given to all concerned departments to mobilize their efforts and extend all forms of necessary assistance to citizens.

Army Urges Citizens To Remain in Villages

NC2607172893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1652 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Statement by the Guidance Directorate of the Lebanese Army Command—read by announcer]

[Text] The Israeli enemy has continued its air, land, and naval attacks on villages and towns in al-Biqa' al-Gharbi, Iqlim al- Tuffah, Bint Jubayl, and the cities of Sidon, Tyre, and Tripoli for the second day in a row. As a result a number of martyrs fell and other people were wounded. Property damage was very severe. The enemy used combat aircraft, helicopters, field artillery, and tanks in its assaults. Israeli gunboats, cruising along the coast from Tyre to Sidon, took part in the bombardment. The Israeli attacks were accompanied by calls to citizens to flee their homes and villages.

Lebanese Army positions east of Sidon, al-Nabatiyah, and al-Zahrani came under intensive artillery shelling, injuring several military personnel and causing some equipment losses.

Lebanese Army artillery returned the fire and its antiaircraft guns confronted the raiding planes. The Army also organized patrols inside the villages under attack to reassure the citizens and exhort them to stand fast and remain on their land and in their villages in order to thwart the enemy's scheme of evacuating the south and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi of its residents.

SLA's Lahd Urges Government To Disarm Hizballah

NC2607180293 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1622 GMT 26 jul 93

[Statement by Major General Antoine Lahd, South Lebanese Army Commander—read by announcer]

[Text] In these critical days Lebanon is experiencing, we can only say that we are surprised that the country lacks leadership that can reassure its puzzled people during this ordeal. All Lebanon needs is a capable government to reassure the people. Regrettably, reports from Beirut are confusing and indicate that the country lacks leadership. Instead of making firm decisions against saboteurs, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz is appealing to the Lebanese people to rally around the legitimate authorities to achieve what he calls utmost steadfastness. What steadfastness are you talking about? Israel again reasserts that it does not seek to harm the legitimate authorities and that its only concern is to hunt down the illegal forces to ensure security for its citizens.

Israel advises the Lebanese Army to stand aside and allow Israel to settle its problems with the saboteurs. Beirut, however, neither hears nor understands. Firing rockets at the border villages only means killing brothers. Is this what you want? Israel does not covet Lebanese territories. You are demanding that Israel implement Security Council Resolution 425 and withdraw. Are you trying to convince Israel to do this with Katyusha rockets?

Now that Israel's patience has run out, it is dealing hard blows to shameless faces. You know that the Israeli Army is capable of dealing devastating blows to all your resistance forces. Is that why you are resisting?

Persisting in using empty slogans, we heard Minister Buwayz flouting sound logic, denouncing aggression, and threatening to lodge a complaint with the Security Council.

At these historic moments that may be decisive, I address myself to the wise leadership in Beirut. By wise leadership, I mean the leadership that can realize the consequences of its actions. A wise leadership should see facts and not pursue a mirage. A wise leadership should act logically and wisely and then choose the best way to solve problems. A wise leadership should not encourage a terrorist organization like Hizballah but should disarm it and take all its rockets by force and then go to Israel and say please withdraw now that there is no Hizballah on our land. This is what the wise leadership in Beirut should have done before this happened.

Today I appeal to this wise leadership, who might be inside or outside the government, to take matters in hand and return the army to its barracks immediately. After collecting arms from Hizballah and other terrorist organizations, the government will have the opportunity to consult with the Arab and international parties concerned, including Syria, and then it can make a Lebanese decision without interference to stop the bloodshed of innocent people and extricate the country, God willing, from this predicament. God knows that I do not want to criticize anyone.

SLA Urges Citizens To Expel Hizballah

NC2707085393 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0816 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] To the people of the south: The Voice of the South transmits continuously to serve the southern citizen. Its objective is to safeguard your interest and safety. Therefore, keep listening.

This is an announcement addressed to the esteemed citizens of Sidon and Tyre: We request the citizens of Sidon and Tyre to keep listening to the Voice of the South over the next few days, because security sources have said that the presence of facilities of Hizballah, the Islamic Group, and the Palestinian terrorist organizations near your houses will create a situation similar to that in Jibshit and other southern villages. Drive the terrorists away as soon as possible. Forewarned is forearmed.

Hizballah Vows To Continue Fight Against Israel

NC2607213193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Hizballah has vowed to continue its attacks against Israeli forces until they withdraw from southern Lebanon, despite the violent air raids. Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah deputy secretary general, has stated that Hizballah is proud to cherish the goal of sabotaging the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Deputy Asks Government To Rebuff U.S. Envoy

NC2707130293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1150 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Speaking at a funeral for three Islamic resistance martyrs who died during the confrontation with the Zionist enemy forces in western al-Biqa', Ibrahim al-Amin, head of the parliamentary bloc for loyalty to the resistance, said: Today we say goodbye to heroes who are a special breed of people. The enemy thinks that he can undermine the strugglers' willpower and resolve. The enemy should not think that his aircraft can defeat or undermine us. The enemy does not know that we are graduates of the school of courage and heroism. We are followers of martyr Husayn [grandson of Prophet Muhammad]. We are the sons of the blood revolution of Karbala'.

On behalf the martyrs, al-Amin appealed to everyone and to the Lebanese Government to refuse to receive the criminal U.S. envoy in Lebanon whose soil has been sanctified by the blood of martyrs. He said: We call on them to preserve their dignity and refuse to receive the conspirators who insolently and clearly stand by the Zionist entity. At the same time, we call on the authorities to make a clear and candid decision for the Lebanese Army and patriots in this army to confront the enemy. We call on the authorities to make the army that wants to sing frivolous songs on the amphitheater of Ba'labakk castle into an army singing the songs of heroism and confrontation.

Parties Proclaim Support for Resistance

NC2707082293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] The national and Islamic parties and forces and Palestinian groups have held a meeting at Hizballah headquarters to discuss the situation following the attacks against the villages and towns of the south and al-Biqa', as well as the Palestinian camps. The conferees issued a statement saying that the Zionist occupation forces' wide-scale attack against the villages, camps, and towns aims to undermine our resolve to defend our rights and weaken our people's commitment to resistance.

The statement reiterates resolve to support resistance and pays homage to the fighters of Islamic and national resistance, pledging to support those fighters in every possible way. The statement says that the brutal Zionist shelling is clearly aimed at civilian villages and unarmed civilians. The shelling is a testimony to the barbarism of a racist state created by terror and massacres.

The statement calls on the Lebanese Government, with all its political and information organs, to acknowledge the suffering and steadfastness of our people and to act accordingly. The statement says that the barbaric attack, preceding U.S. Secretary Christopher's visit to the region, poses question about the usefulness of continuing the negotiations. We call on the government to withdraw immediately from the talks, the statement says.

The statement, while denouncing the Arab regimes' indifference to the fate of the Lebanese people, pays tribute to the courageous stand of sisterly Syria. The statement calls for general mobilization in the ranks of all fighters.

PFLP Official Assassinated in 'Ayn al-Hulwah

NC2607055393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] A security source has reported that Wafiq Mansur, an official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], was assassinated in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp near Sidon this evening. The source said Mansur was walking at 2300 when two masked men opened fire on him. He was hit by several bullets and died on the spot. A Palestinian who was passing by was wounded and taken to the hospital.

Al-Shar' Confers With UN General Assembly President

JN2607175393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jul (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received today Stoyan Ganev, president of the UN General Assembly. Raslan 'Allush, the foreign minister's assistant, and Tahir al-Husami, director of the Organization Department attended the meeting.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the peace process, how the United Nations operates, restructuring the United Nations, and ways of developing its mechanism and improving its performance to be more democratic and more representative of the will of all peoples in order to realize world peace and security without double standards.

Israeli Bombing of Southern Lebanon Criticized

Solidarity With Lebanon Expressed

JN2607154193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jul (SANA)—An official spokesman has made the following statement:

Since the convening of the Madrid conference, Israel has been ignoring the fact that it is a party to the peace process, and insisting on continuing on the path of intransigence, provocation, and aggression instead of following the path of peace, right, and law, which the Arab parties have been following.

Over the past 20 months, Israel has set new records in the haphazard killing of women and children, the deliberate destruction of houses and villages of innocent civilians, the deportation and evacuation of thousands by forces, and in changing their occupied land into detention and concentration camps.

In such an aggressive atmosphere, how can anyone with a sound mind demand that Arab citizens under Israeli occupation not resist this occupation through the means available to them? And how can anyone with a sound mind ask the other citizens to guard the Israeli occupation forces and ensure a calm life for them?

It has become clear to the entire international community, through its defiance of Security Council Resolution 799 and refusal to immediately repatriate the Palestinian deportees to their homeland, that Israel has placed its will above the will of the international community and its authority and colonial law above the authority of the Security Council and international law.

Syria, which believes in the necessity of a just and comprehensive peace that is based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, and which strongly sticks to the legitimate Arab right to restore their usurped rights and all occupied territories, supports sisterly Lebanon, whose martyr's blood was mixed with the blood of the Syrian people, and expresses solidarity with Lebanon in the face of this sinful Israeli aggression.

Syria also emphasizes that what Israel did yesterday morning, in its brutal aggression against the Lebanese civilians and their safe villages, cannot be viewed as aggression only against Lebanon, Syria, and the Arabs. It is an aggression against the entire international community, particularly the Security Council, which is responsible for maintaining international security and peace.

Israeli Motives Questioned

JN2707082993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "When Will the United Nations Play its Role Against Israel?" AL-BA'TH editorial says: As the savage attacks continue on peaceful villages in southern Lebanon, Israeli officials are still threatening to expand the aggression. Both Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and his army's chief of staff threatened to set all Lebanon ablaze, adding that military operations will remain open.

AL-BA'TH wonders: What does this mean? Has Israel worked for peace or for undermining the peace process since it was launched in Madrid? The paper says: If Israel had really been serious about making the peace process succeed, would it ever place the region on the verge of a new war prior to the U.S. secretary of state's arrival in the region?

AL-BA'TH affirms that the Israeli shelling of peaceful residents in Lebanese villages is in fact also directed against Christopher's mission. The U.S. Administration is fully aware that this broad, aggressive action, which targeted civilians and their villages, will add new obstacles to the obstacles already created by Israel. These obstacles have thus far prevented any breakthrough on the path of real peace, the paper adds.

Thus, the U.S. secretary's efforts should supposedly be directed toward Israel, if the United States really wants to save the peace process. This is because the Arabs have offered everything possible to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, the paper notes.

AL-BA'TH affirms that despite all Israel has done, we have not seen any move by the United Nations, or by those claiming extreme concern for human rights. Shouldn't the United Nations play its role—as it did in various regions, particularly in our Arab region—and at least impose sanctions on Israel, although the United Nations should supposedly use all possible means to force Israel to implement the international resolutions.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: We reaffirm that the statement made by the official Syrian spokesman was sound

in that it stressed that the Israeli aggression was not only directed against the Arabs but also against the entire international community.

Discussing the same issue, and under the headline "The Character and the Normalization", TISHRIN editorial says: The treacherous raids launched by Israeli warplanes against peaceful residential areas have shown that the mentality of aggression, arrogance, and intransigence continues to dominate the Israeli Government's conduct. These savage actions also confirmed that the racist grudge is still the sole prevailing and official creed in Israel.

TISHRIN adds: The official Israeli statements have revealed part of Israel's objectives. Israel openly declared that it will not stop the aggression until resistance stops. Accordingly, we say that the Israeli rulers plan to uproot resistance from southern Lebanon and maintain occupation. They want to pursue repression, terrorism, and occupation. They also want to expel citizens and change the features of Arab territories.

TISHRIN continues: The threat Lebanon is now facing has also revealed the depth of coordination and rapprochement between Lebanon and Syria. Syrian blood has merged with the Lebanese blood which confronted Israel. Moreover, Damascus announced its firm support for Lebanon. Israel cannot achieve its political objectives in Lebanon now, after failing to do so throughout two decades.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The Israeli conspiracy was defeated in Lebanon, and Lebanon remained united, sovereign, Arab, and independent. It is naive to image that Rabin can now revive the old Israeli schemes. The 1982 aggression failed, thanks to the firm Lebanese confrontation, supported by Syria. Likewise, the current aggression will not achieve its objectives, and will turn into a disaster for Rabin.

Israeli 'Political Aims' Viewed

JN2607152493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli aggression against Lebanon has been continuing for over 24 hours. Along with it has come provocative statements by Israeli officials threatening to expand the area under attack and the size of this ground, air, and sea aggression. The declared purpose of this aggression is to strike at the Lebanese resistance and provide so-called security for the Israeli occupation forces in southern Lebanon and the Israeli settlements in the northern part of the occupied territories. The aggression occurred less than 24 hours after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's announcement that neither the occupation of the south in 1978, which was called operation Peace for Galilee [as heard; the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon was code-named Peace for Galilee, while the 1978 operation was code-named the Litani Operation], nor the overall aggression against Lebanon in 1982, ended the Lebanese resistance or provided security to the Israeli occupation. On the contrary, the Israeli aggression was defeated by resistance blows, and Israel's occupation of the Lebanese territories was confined to the present strip. The national resistance remained a vivid expression of the Lebanese will to liberate the occupied part of Lebanon and refusal to submit to the dictates of occupation.

By his statement, Rabin contradicts his subsequent statement on the real purpose of his present aggression. It is obvious from his statement, that the Israeli prime minister is aware of the fact that it is impossible to destroy the Lebanese resistance. It will not be destroyed either through direct occupation of Lebanese territory, as was the case in the past, or through the bestial, barbaric bombardment and the so-called limited ground aggression we see now. Such aggression will only leave behind more destruction and more deaths of innocent and defenseless civilians to be added to what was left from the two previous Israeli incursions into Lebanon, in terms of horrid destruction, killing, displacement, and subversion that spared no man or stone. Had the previous two aggressions succeeded in eliminating the Lebanese resistance, no resistance would exist now to be used as a pretext by the Israeli leaders to justify their aggression. Following this aggression, it is only logical to expect the escalation of national resistance through all means and forms against the Israeli forces of evil and occupation.

All this shows that Israel's real aim behind this aggression is political. All the killing and destruction of Lebanese villages and towns is only aimed at realizing specific political aims, perhaps headed by foiling any chances of success for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's forthcoming tour of the region. It is a tour designed to rescue the peace process from the impasse caused by Israel during 10 rounds of talks, and to contribute toward opening an outlet, no matter how small it is, in the blocked road reached by the talks because of Israel.

Israel, which blocked every opportunity for progress in the Washington peace talks, is absolutely against paving the way for a new opportunity to advance the peace process through Christopher's anticipated tour. It seeks to obstruct the U.S. secretary's tour and prevent him from making any real progress by dictating a rescheduling of the visit's priorities, concerns, contents, and aims. By targeting the Syrian positions in its aggression, Israel wants to drag Syria into a reaction that would help Israel cover its real political aims behind this military aggression. It will thus be able to confuse the situation on the eve of the U.S. secretary's arrival.

What Rabin and his entourage should perhaps realize is that not only will the military aims of their strike at the resistance fail, but the chances of success for their political aims are no better than those for their military aims. They are completely exposed to the world and, just as in the past, their justifications for their aggression

have not convinced anyone. Only the naive can falsely imagine that they could convince the world that resisting occupation is an excuse for aggression but occupation is not an excuse for resistance, and that the firing of a katyusha is a disturbance to the occupation but the air, ground, and sea bombardment of the various areas of Lebanon—north, south, east, west, coast, and land—should not be considered a provocation of the Lebanese people.

The Tel Aviv rulers know quite well that calm cannot prevail with the continuation of occupation and that every people whose land has been occupied is bound by duty to disrupt the occupier. The Israeli leaders also realize, even more than others, that the only way for security to prevail, not only in southern Lebanon but the entire region, is to end their bestial and illegitimate occupation of the Arab territories.

Afghanistan

Russian Military Continues Siege at Border

BK2707012293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0112 GMT 27 Jul 93

[By Terence White]

[Excerpt] Amu Darya River, Afghanistan, July 27 (AFP)—The dust trail was the first indication of the swift vehicle, which seen through binoculars proved to be a Russian armoured fighting vehicle, a sleek light-weight troop carrying tank.

The BMP-1 tank was escorting a fuel tanker and two other supply trucks to a border security post on the far bank of the Amu Darya (Oxus) River in the Central Asian republic of Tajikistan.

The post, said to be manned by Russian guards from a border battalion, featured a collection of barracks, a huge radio antenna, a watch-tower and a massive truck-mounted searchlight the Afghan mojahedin call "the projector."

Russian forces belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) are based in Tajikistan to suppress Tajik Islamic guerrillas they claim receive military aid from the Afghan mojahedin, an allegation denied by the Afghan Government.

Perhaps out of fear of Afghan retaliation, nobody could be seen out in the open of the Russian compound, nor was there any reply to repeated calls on the mojahedin's radio. Apart from a moving silhouette in the watchtower, the post appeared to be lifeless.

Opposite, on the Afghan side of the border, the village of Warichi was a ghost town, deserted of nearly all its 200-odd families due to the heavy artillery bombardment from across the river.

In 11 days, 40 Warichi civilians were killed and 12 wounded, according to the village's white-bearded elders, who have stubbornly refused to be driven from their homes since the intermittent shelling started four months ago.

Some 14 people were killed by a single rocket that exploded in a copse of poplar trees which villagers had mistakenly thought was safer than their mud-brick homes.

"The Russians have deprived us of the right of reaching the bank of the river to draw water. We cannot move even in our own village," the elders said.

"We are under siege."

Warichi has to be approached with extreme caution, at night and on foot, as the flashes of light and deep thuds from the shelling of the villages of Anjiz and Khar Sangan further east reverberate through the air.

The three border villages belong to a group of 10 jointly called Samti, the worst-affected area in a 200-kilometre (120-mile) stretch of bombarded Afghan border in north-eastern Takhar province.

The shelling of Warichi had stopped four days earlier but clear evidence of the attacks was visible.

The elders and mojahedin border guards in Warichi had made no precise count of the number of houses damaged, burnt or destroyed in their village but at least 10 houses were destroyed.

The twisted remains of two-metre-long rockets and mortar tailfins lay about the rubble along with shrapnel-scarred kitchen utensils, broken pottery and wooden ceiling beams turned into charcoal stumps.

One small general goods shop had been demolished, its stock incinerated, and dead farm animals lay festering in the sun.

The elders said the original inhabitants of Warichi formerly lived across the Amu Darya, in a place called "Wari", but after the October 1917 revolution which brought the Bolsheviks to power, they quit en masse for Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

* Russians Trap Afghans in Tajikistan

93P50246A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan from Peshawar and Jalal al-Mashitah from Moscow]

[Excerpt] Russian intelligence sources have warned that the operations the Tajik mojahedin carried out on the Afghan-Tajik border is a preface to widespread attacks which they expect to be carried out in the middle of September to take control of Badakhshan Province in southern Tajikistan. The newspaper IZVESTIA, which published the articles yesterday, said that intelligence officials called on the government to make a decision on either maintaining its forces in the republic of Tajikistan or withdrawing them, while taking into consideration what results the decisions would have.

While a source close to the Tajik opposition in Moscow affirmed to AL-HAYAH the soundness of the article the newspaper published, an informed source in Kabul stated that the Tajik mojahedin had acquired Saqr-20 and Saqr-30 type surface-to-surface missiles from the Afghan groups and used them in their recent attacks on the positions of the 201st Mechanized Infantry Division headquartered on the Tajik-Afghan border. The same sources said that these (Egyptian-made) shoulder-fired weapons had come into the possession of the Tajik mojahedin while they were holed up in the mountains along the borders inside the territory of their republic.

The same sources disclosed that 200 Afghan mojahedin of the Pashtun nomadic Zakhel tribes who were in forward positions 20 km inside the Tajik territories were not able to return to Afghanistan due to the deployment

of Russian forces. The mojahedin military commanders have consulted with Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar on how to withdraw them and have asked his followers to go slowly until the mediation with Moscow to withdraw its reinforcements from the area is complete. [passage omitted]

Hekmatyar, Azerbaijani Envoy Discuss Cooperation

LD2507193793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Text] In Charasiab this morning, Afghan Prime Minister Hekmatyar met Mr. Roshan Jawanov, the special envoy of the president and prime minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan [name and title as heard], and his accompanying delegation.

The prime minister's press department told BAKHTAR that during the meeting, which was also attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Hamed Karzay, talks were held about good relations between the two countries. Both sides agreed on necessary cooperation and assistance.

Hekmatyar Chairs Meeting on Economic Situation

LD2607181693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] An extraordinary meeting on the economic situation was held today at the temporary headquarters of the Prime Ministry in Charasiab. It was chaired by esteemed Golboddin Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan .

The press department of the Prime Ministry reports that the meeting was attended by esteemed Karim Khalili, minister of finance; esteemed Hamidollah Tarzi, minister-adviser in economic affairs in the Prime Ministry; esteemed Dr. Zabehollah Eltezam, head of the Afghanistan Bank; and esteemed Shah Mahmud, deputy minister of finance. The country's financial and banking situations were discussed and the necessary decisions made.

India

Parliamentarians Debate No-Confidence Motion Against Government

Congress-I Ally To Back Motion

BK2707115493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] The Janata Dal-Ajit Singh group has decided to support the no-confidence motion against the government. The party has also issued a whip to its MP's to vote against the government. This was decided at the party's parliamentary group meeting in New Delhi today.

The leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has come down heavily on the government alleging that corruption has become rampant in the administration. Resuming the discussion on the no-confidence motion, he said the credibility of the Narasimha Rao government is now at its lowest ebb. Disputing the claim of treasury benches that the government has put up a good performance on the economic front, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader argued that the country is now being pushed into a debt trap. The domestic industry is in the doldrums, he said.

In a brief intervention, the prime minister refuted the charges. Mr. Narasimha Rao said the government's efforts to make the domestic industry efficient will continue.

Mr. P. Chidambaram, Congress-I, cautioned that unless secular forces unite, fundamentalist and obscurantist elements will gain an upper hand and that is the road to disaster for the country. Strongly refuting the charge that Congress-I is soft on communalism, he said the BJP is seeking to grab power by cashing in on communalism. Mr. Chidambaram asked the National Front and Left Parties whether they consider it their patriotic duty to defeat the Congress-I and enable the BJP to come to power.

Mr. Somnath Chatterji, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] accused the Congress-I with openly siding with the BJP to bring down the V.P. Singh regime. He alleged that the government is trying to shift responsibility for its failure to deliver the goods.

The discussion is in progress.

BJP Supports Motion

BK2707075693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] The Lok Sabha has resumed the discussion on the no-confidence motion against the government. Supporting the motion, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] severely criticized the government's economic policies. He said when the Congress-I government came into power two years ago people looked for stability but the country is neck deep in debt now. Rejecting the claims of the Congress-I on the achievements of economic reforms, he said the domestic industries are facing closure. Mr. Vajpayee said that people thought that the country's politics will take a new dimension under the leadership of Mr. Narasimha Rao but their expectations were not fulfilled. The prime minister promised to work on the basis of consensus and efforts were made in the beginning to tide over the economic crisis. But, Mr. Vajpayee said they did not last long.

In a brief intervention, the prime minister said that the government's efforts to make the domestic industry efficient will continue. Mr. Vajpayee was still speaking when reports last came in.

26 Jul Debate Detailed

BK2607161393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The opposition in the Lok Sabha today made a scathing attack on the government policies during the

discussion on the no-confidence motion and alleged corruption in high places. Rebutting the charge, the Congress-I members termed the no-confidence motion as a reckless exercise to put the government under pressure. They said people have demonstrated their faith in the Narasimha Rao government in the recent Kalka assembly by-election which was sought to be made a referendum by the opposition. The treasury benches also said the opposition, which were out to bring down the government, have no alternative programs—political or economic.

The motion moved by Mr. Ajay Mukhopadhyay, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], expressed lack of confidence in the Narasimha Rao government, saying it is surrendering the country's interests before the IMF. It said the government had failed to take action against those involved in the Ayodhya incident. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], which also supported the motion along with the National Front at the admission stage, said that it does not agree with all the reasons given in the motion.

Initiating the discussion, Mr. Mukhopadhyay said the government has to go, as its economic policies have only resulted in unemployment and misery to farmers, workers, and common people. He also said the government could not contain the communal forces. Putting up a strong defense for the government, Mr. Buta Singh, Congress-I, said the whole world is appreciating our achievements on the economic front. He charged the opposition with seeking only the interest of their parties and not the country. Mr. Buta Singh alleged BJP's hand behind Harshad Mehta's allegations against the prime minister.

Mr. Jaswant Singh, BJP, said the government could not provide even the basic security to the people and failed to nab the Memon brothers involved in the Bombay blasts. He said government lacks direction and has no clear-cut policy on Kashmir. He said that we have to rely on the Swiss courts for the names of the beneficiaries of the Bofors gun deal case. He also found fault with the foreign policy, particularly in the context of cancellation of cryogenic engine deal by Russia.

Speaking amidst repeated interruption, Janata Dal alleged that multinationals have been given a free hand to run the country's economy and they are being allowed even to manufacture salt. Mr. Fernandes accused the government of resorting to retrenchment in privatization in the name of liberalization. He demanded a joint parliamentary committee probe into the disinvestment of public sector shares.

Mr. P.K. Bansal, Congress-I, severely criticizing the opposition, said it is strange that the government is called anti-people even after a creditable performance on the development front. He cautioned the left parties against playing into the hands of the BJP, which, he said has been playing communal card.

The discussion was marked by acrimonious scenes and heated exchanges. It will continue tomorrow.

U.S. Blamed For Misusing Missile Technology Regulation

BK2607101593 Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Jul 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Of Cryogenic Fiasco"]

[Text] So ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] chairman Prof. U.R. Rao and our External Affairs Ministry were equally ill-informed, or naive, about America's intentions towards India. Prof. Rao's statement at the end of his week-long talks in Moscow was as misleading as had been the Indian External Affairs Ministry's estimate of the strength of U.S. disapproval of Pakistan's terrorist attacks on India. Prof. Rao should have known better. When a person of his authority in India's Science and Technology [S and T] establishment makes an affirmative public statement, after his prolonged talks with the Russians and the Tokyo pow-wow of the Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin, his compatriots were bound to trust his conclusion. He had said that there was no danger to the Russian commitment to sell cryogenic engines and technology. Our S and T establishment, including those engaged in defence-related research, shows signs of cracking up under the twin impact of U.S. pressure and confused thinking in India's political leadership. Key officials of the defence research organisation and the External Affairs Ministry are allowed by the government to be hired by U.S. agencies (institutions). There is a queue of senior Indian scientists in India's sensitive research agencies cadging jobs in America. It would be surprising if the altered priorities in the people who run India's S and T establishment do not colour their judgement. As for the U.S., there is no reason—unless big powers still have respect for national autonomy—why it should not take the fullest advantage of the chaos in Russia and the greed of India's decision-taking elite. It is immoral of America to misuse the MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime] to ban technologies to which this embargo is not applicable. The MTCR restriction is to be employed against export of equipment and technology that can be used to produce a missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. The cryogenic engine technology cannot be employed to produce such a missile. Neither India nor Russia is a member of the MTCR club. In 1992, America imposed a two-year ban on U.S. trade with Russia's space agency, Glavkosmos, India's ISRO. America thus has acquired extra-territorial powers to decide the nature of trade to be permitted between non-COCOM countries. This is a new situation. America's perception would determine trade relations between any two countries, and the domestic U.S. laws would be applicable to countries which have not surrendered their sovereignty to the U.S. The sanctions being employed against the countries which devise trade relations in their national interests—if these do not obtain U.S. approval—are more stringent than in the past. The U.S. State Department spokesman has dismissed with insensitivity the possibility that the U.S. decision would hurt Indo-U.S. relations. The American official was convinced that there would be no such thing if America were to decide to give India some hand-me-down engines from

the U.S. shelves. Today's U.S. officials may not know this, but a similar insensitivity shown by the West in the 1950s, when India wanted to expand basic industries soured India's relations with the Western industrial democracies. Then, as now, the U.S.-led Western powers underestimated India's determination to pursue, for economic and technological development, the path of its own choice.

Iran

Officials Condemn Israeli Attacks on Lebanon

Khamene'i Message to Hizballah

LD2607191393 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July, 26, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Monday [26 July] expressed his deep regret over the death of many Lebanese civilians and demolition of their residential units in Zionist air raids on southern Lebanon.

The supreme leader also called on Lebanese and Palestinian strugglers to strengthen their resistance to the aggressor and the bullying regime of Israel as the sole alternative to solve their problem.

"Today, it is incumbent upon all Muslims of the world to defend the rights of the Palestinian and Lebanese nations," Ayatollah Khamene'i said in a letter to secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Nasrallah.

"I was grieved at the news of the savage attacks by the Zionist regime on the homes and villages of the noble and innocent people of Lebanon which resulted in the martyrdom and wounding of some of those oppressed people and in the demolition of many houses and buildings," the leader said.

"The silence of international observers on the barbaric behavior of such a racist and usurper regime, and of its supporters who falsely claim to be advocates of human rights but are actually silent and even encourage such inhuman acts should bring all those who pin their hopes on U.S. leaders and other supporters of Israel to solve their problems, to their senses," the leader said.

"Muslims themselves should defend their rights in a manly manner," the leader of the Islamic revolution made it clear.

Elsewhere in his letter, Ayatollah Khamene'i expressed his condolences to the bereaved families of the martyrs and those wounded in the recent Zionist bombing raids and prayed to God for success of all Lebanese Muslims.

President Assails International 'Silence'

LD2707115693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met officials and members of Tehran's Friday prayers headquarters this morning. [passage omitted]

Referring to the recent acts of aggression by the Zionist regime against southern Lebanon, he said: You see how audaciously the Zionists are staging extensive military and destructive attacks on innocent Lebanon. Unfortunately responsible international organizations and arrogant powers proclaiming guardianship of international standards are encouraging them with their silence, which is a sign of their approval. [passage omitted]

Majles Speaker Blames Regional Governments

LD2707092593 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Tuesday [27 July] denounced renewed attacks by the Zionist regime on southern Lebanon and said it was the consequence of wrong policies of the regional Arab governments.

Speaking at today's Majles open session, Nuri noted that the attack was launched at a time when the U.S. and its allies were conspiring new developments in Arab-Israeli peace talks. He noted that coincidence of such developments further revealed both the nature of the Zionist regime and definition of the term "peace" in American terminology.

Stressing that wrong policies of regional Arab governments had emboldened the Zionists to perpetuate their crimes, the speaker warned that a step backward by the Muslims would not only demoralize themselves but would further encourage arrogant powers. He strongly criticized such international bodies as the United Nations and the Security Council for the indifferent stand they adopted towards the issue. Nateq-Nuri expressed hope that Arab states would learn from such a tragic event and confront hegemonic powers.

Over 150 people were killed or wounded in the recent Zionist assault in southern Lebanon.

Yazdi Sees 'No International Justification'

LD2607155693 Tehran IRNA in English 1527 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—Head of the judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi here today condmned the wide-scale attack of the Zionist troops on Lebanon, as "having no international justification."

He said such attacks will not shake the faith and firm will of the Muslim people of Lebanon in their righteous struggles, "but these attacks will make them follow their goals more decisively."

Ayatollah Yazdi said the illegal presence of the Zionist regime in south Lebanon is the factor for tension in the region.

Referring to the killing of innocent people including women and children by the Zionist regime he called on the United Nations to prevent further Zionist attacks on Lebanon through serious and speedy measures.

He also urged the United Nations to force the Zionist regime to an unconditional widthrawal from south Lebanon according to the Security Council Resolution 425.

Speaking to the judicial officials Ayatollah Yazdi also condemned the occupation of the city of Agdam in Azerbaijan Republic by the Armenian forces as "a blatant invasion of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity." He called on the two sides to settle their disputes through negotiations.

Further in the session Ayatollah Yazdi turned to the U.S. threats to pressure Iran economically, and said Iran will continue to be committed to its foreign policy, and will not step back from the lofty goals of Islam and Islamic revolution under any circumstances.

Commentary Expects Israeli Defeat

LD2707120693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1101 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings, dear listeners. You have heard today's news; now let me draw your attention to today's political commentaries. The Zionist regime's savage air and artillery attacks against Lebanon's residential areas, which have subjected various parts of that country to severe bombing on a vast scale, have continued for a third day, leaving behind new civilian victims. [passage omitted]

If the international community wants to avoid being the Zionist regime's partner in its war crimes and to avoid being held responsible for the blood of the innocent people of Lebanon, it must separate its path from Israel and put an end to the Zionist regime's crimes. If the Zionist regime believes it will be able to ensure the security of its soldiers in occupied Lebanon by shedding the blood of that country's innocent people, they are completely wrong in thinking this. If such a thing were possible and the Zionist regime had been able to continue its occupation by killing the Muslim people of Lebanon, there would never have been a shamefaced and disgraceful retreat from Lebanese territory by the Zionist regime's so-called invincible army. If the Zionist regime, despite the mobilization of unprecedented numbers of forces behind its borders, does not dare to launch a ground offensive and can only run its cowardly war from a distance, using aircraft and artillery, there is no other reason than the bitter experience of its enforced withdrawal from Lebanon. The Zionist regime must, therefore, also abandon the hope of tasting victory in the current cowardly war.

Commentary Views Sale of Chinese Missiles to Pakistan

LD2607213993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister and his U.S. counterpart have met and conferred in Singapore simultaneously with the session of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN. As reported, the two sides during the 90-minute meeting discussed various international issues of mutual interest.

The main topic of the talks was the controversial issue concerning the alleged sale of M-11 missiles by China to Pakistan. Apparently America believes that China has violated the Missile Technology Control Regime, MTCR, concerning the sale of missiles having the range of 450 km. This is at a time when the Chinese Government has repeatedly stressed its adherence to international agreements.

U.S. persistence in accusing China of selling the components of M-11 missiles to Pakistan made the talks between the Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher inconclusive. Despite this, it has been reported that the talks would be resumed during the trip of the U.S. assistant secretary of state to Beijing. Also, one of the U.S. officials who was present at the talks between the Chinese foreign minister and his U.S. counterpart, has stated that Warren Christopher has received a letter from Qian Qichen that has been addressed by the Chinese president to U.S. President Bill Clinton in connection with the request for not carrying out nuclear tests.

There may exist various reasons as to why the U.S. Administration continues to level charges against China despite its strong denial on a number of occasions. Despite this, the issue worth pondering in the case of Pakistan is the general U.S. opposition which involves the Islamic world. Under this theory America feels unhappy with the access to the relatively advanced weapons of any Muslim country even though its government may be an ally to Washington. This is a part of the U.S. strategy as well as the commitments which it has been following in order to protect its imperialistic base in the Middle East, namely Israel. Naturally, Pakistan's access to the most sophisticated weapons, including M-11 missiles, as contended by America would be contrary to the U.S. strategy.

But the noteworthy issue with regard to China is that the U.S. is concerned about the independence of action of that country in adopting certain decisions which are guided solely by national interests. For those very reasons, America, by asserting various claims, is seeking to exert political and trade pressures on China, and this has gone to the extent where U.S. President Bill Clinton is threatening Beijing with economic sanctions in the event of continuing its present policy.

It must be kept in mind that China is in a position to respond to the U.S. threats. The leverage of economic sanctions which the U.S. President wants to apply to China will prove to be equally detrimental to America as well. It is not known as to whether America's big industrial corporations which have established trade ties with China on a more reliable pattern will back Clinton on the subject. Beside this, China has the highest rate of economic growth,

while America is faced with economic recession. Therefore, it will not be in the trade interest of Washington to deepen the rift to such an extent where it may confront the problem in having access to the world's greatest market.

It is imagined that China is trying to differentiate between arms sales where America is the biggest exporter and ordinary trade ties. On this very ground one can believe that China will remain adhering to its international commitments, but will not feel itself dutybound to observe the U.S. views. The reason is that China will prefer national interest and independence of action in its relations with various states of the world to its trade ties with America. This appears to a large extent to be something natural.

Paper Criticizes UN Role in Division of Bosnia

LD2407094993 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 24 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—The morning English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in an editorial Saturday [24 July] criticized the role the United Nations is playing vis-a-vis division of Bosnia- Herzegovina.

It wrote: "Collaboration of the U.N. forces with the Serbs will always remain as a historical stigma on it." Deploring the fact that the tragic plight of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina has reached a regrettable stage, the article noted that "the most saddening of all is the U.N. role in the division of Bosnia."

The U.N. and the Security Council have practically supported the savage Serbs and even assumed their role in food and medicine embargo, added the daily. It blamed the U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali for resorting to such an excuse as lack of enough budget for not intervening in Bosnia militarily.

"How come the U.N. provides the required budget for crimes in Somalia and military action against a nation that does not wish the occupation of its land by aliens, but it faces 'budget shortage' in Bosnia where an organized genocide of Muslims is underway with the aim to prevent the establishment of the only Islamic government in Europe?" the paper argued.

Stressing that the main objective, both in Somalia and Bosnia, was to suppress Islam at any price, the daily warned the U.N. secretary general of the day when he too would have to face a tribunal for complicity in Serbian crimes against humanity.

U.S. Foreign Policy Termed 'Weak, Indecisive'

NC2307145293 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 15 Jul 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Conformist Foreign Policies"]

Bill Clinton's presidential campaign speeches were full of attractive rhetorics on many international problems—on the war crimes in Bosnia-Herezegovina, for instance, or on the stalled Middle East peace conference. But after almost seven months of taking over at the White House, he has not managed to keep any of his promises.

And now one begins to think that the remark by George Bush, the former U.S. President, to the effect that the American people should not allow the office of the U.S. president to be used as a training ground in foreign policy does in fact have some relevance to reality.

It has apparently been accepted as a tradition for the Democratic administrations in the White House to be characterized by weak and indecisive foreign policy. The Democrats's Middle Eastern diplomacy, for instance, is outworn and inefficient.

Whenever the Democrats were in office at the White House during the 60s and 70s they tended to view the Middle East issue from Israel's point of view.

To tie in the overall national interests of the United States with those of Israel is not only to the disadvantage of the Americans, it also reflects simplistic thinking on the part of a national leader to accept as objective reality that which has no basis in reality.

Unfortunately for a very long time foreign policies at the White House during the Democratic administrations have been determined by the Zionists. And although Mr. Clinton and his supporters in the Democratic Party had made promises about fundamental changes, in practice nothing has really been altered in their foreign policy. The clearest proof of this view is the presence of an old-fashioned and conservative diplomat like Warren Christopher in the post of the Secretary of state. Christopher has failed to adapt to the fundamental alterations of the recent years, and he is in fact still living in the seventies, and the age of the Cold War threats.

The New World Order presented by Mr. Clinton and his assistants does not fit in with the international changes, and it is in fact nothing but a mixture of new theories and old policies and practices.

The clearest manifestation of the old practice decked with new theory is Mr. Clinton's recent adventure in Iraq, which is nothing but a new version of the 19th century gunboat diplomacy.

U.S. Efforts To Isolate Country 'Futile'

NC2407091393 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 13 Jul 93 pp 16, 2

[Zahra 'Alavi political commentary: "The United States: Futile Efforts To Isolate Iran"]

[Text] 1. The fall of the shah and the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1978, as well as Iran's withdrawal from the West's political-military-security-economic-cultural nexus, sparked a series of changes in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States.

With Iran's exit from the sphere of Western influence, not only was a blow inflicted on U.S. interests but events in

Iran also became a rich example for oppressed nations throughout the world to follow.

2. During the years since the Islamic revolution, U.S. policy has had its vicissitudes but basically has not changed. If the general principle of U.S. foreign policy is the protection of U.S. interests in the world, and this is used as a yardstick to assess the policies of that country, we will reach the conclusion that with Iran's exit from the sphere of Western influence an irreparable blow was inflicted on U.S. interests. Therefore, the United States has not spared any efforts throughout the years to annihilate Iran's Islamic revolution. Instigating racial prejudice and domestic counterrevolutionary groups, launching direct military attacks, and provoking and assisting Iraq in attacking Iran were among the futile attempts by the United States to defeat Iran's revolution.

In short, neither the foreign nor the domestic enemies of Iran have benefited from the export of Iran's revolutionary ideas.

3. In the post-Cold War era, the U.S. implemented a policy of containing the (former) Soviet Union, and this policy continued until the disintegration of that country in 1991. After Clinton's victory the United States implemented a policy of isolating and containing Iran.

The policy of isolating Iran by the United States has various political-economic-military-cultural aspects.

From the economic scope, the United States is trying to prevent any type of healthy economic relationship between Iran and other countries. It is resorting to all possible means to prevent the country's reconstruction, investment by industrially developed countries in Iran, and any step that may lead to improving Iran's economic situation and welfare.

U.S. efforts in the past few months to encourage the "G-7" countries to decrease their cooperation and economic relations with Iran can be viewed within this context.

From the military scope, the United States is trying to prevent Iran from acquiring any type of advanced military, conventional, and ...arms and, by magnifying the extent of Iran's arms purchases, it has tried to terrify neighboring countries, forgetting that Iran's arms purchases are much less than those of its small neighbors.

Politically, America has tried to exacerbate the regional situation and to upset Iran's relations with neighboring countries, such as Islamic countries that are within the sphere of Western influence. It has also brought up the issue of the Iranian islands, referred to Iran's support for opposition groups in countries such as Egypt and Algeria, and alleged that Iran promotes so-called terrorist activities.

The West's cultural onslaught against Iran aimed at creating an identity crisis among our country's younger generation has been among the major U.S. policies in weakening the revolution from within.

4. The election of Clinton and his "Zionophile" cabinet sparked off a new era of poisonous propaganda against Islamic Iran by a country claiming world leadership.

Naturally, U.S. politicians cannot tolerate anything opposed to the policies that they dictate. They consider Iran's independent actions and policies to be contrary to their interests and to the new world order that they have created, and they are trying to impose this idea on other countries as well.

If the American officials are using words to describe Iran that should only be used to describe themselves, if they portray Iran as an international villain and consider the world's sole independent country as a serious problem for the U.S. Government, if they threaten Iran with an attack similar to the attack on Iraq, if with each and every opportunity Iran is described as the major problem faced by the American officials, if every so often they bring up issues such as the violation of human rights, Iran's efforts to acquire the atomic bomb, and its support for terrorism and... it is all because of Iran's independent views and because it has left the sphere of American influence and is supporting the struggles of the world's oppressed nations against arrogance.

There is no doubt that one of the special characteristics of the world today is the political awakening and the Islamic uprising of nations, and this is the most threatening element to U.S. and Western interests. Iran is in the center of this immense political and Islamic awakening and uprising. It is because of this that the sharp blade of U.S. attacks is aimed at our country. This situation will continue as long as Iran insists on its stances and the United States regards the world from an arrogant point of view.

5. The truth is that the U.S. Administration is facing many domestic problems. The only promise kept among the many the U.S. President made during his campaign has been the freedom that has been granted to the psychopathic homosexual perverts in U.S. society and the military, something that met with opposition from U.S. commanders.

The promises of tax reductions and increased social security have not been fulfilled and the U.S. economy has been unable to emerge from the recession. This is why the United States is seeking military and political adventurism. The strong tone by the U.S. officials against Iran and some other countries can also be viewed from this scope.

6. The inclination of nations toward freedom and independence today is different from the search for independence by countries under UN supervision after World War II. That kind of independence envisaged nothing more than a national anthem, flag, and shaky borders, and there was no sign of national determination. But today the inclination of nations toward independence is outside the framework of U.S. will. It is no accident that the United Nations has become a tool for crushing the people in Somalia and Bosnia.

Islam plays an effective and determining role in the desire of nations for freedom and independence, and the Islamic

Republic, on which nations are focusing their eyes, proves one thing: that a nation can be free and independent despite all the U.S. efforts to destroy this example.

Central Bank Moves To Ease Foreign Exchange Restrictions

LD2607114093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] The Central Bank has announced that foreign exchange accounts held by actual or legal persons will be exempt from fees charged on the sale of foreign exchange and from any costs arising from the difference between the sale and the purchase price of foreign exchange. On the basis of a circular issued by the bank, foreign exchange payments, whether in cash or in checks, will be deducted from the foreign exchange accounts of actual or legal Iranian persons, without any charge, whether in terms of selling fees or for any difference between the buying and selling price.

State To Privatize Land, Sea, Air Transportation

LD2607172493 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—The Supreme Council for State Administration headed by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today approved a project to privatize land, sea and air transportation in Iran. The decision will allow the private sector to engage in infrastructural projects in railway industry as well as maintenance of metals and locomotives and their rehabilitation.

The existing inter-city bus terminals, too, are also be handed over to the private sector.

The decision permits the private sector to engage in feasibility studies, and seek consultation for building roads and set up necessary industries for producing related equipments and hardware.

The government also will hand over to the private sector passenger and cargo transportation by air and also existing physical facilities for those services.

The private sector will undertake sea transport business including cargo shipping, loading, unloading, port services, storehouses at ports, coastal and commercial shipping and the operations for spotting ships drowned at the sea as salvaging their cargo.

According to the decision the Ministry of Roads and Transportation along with the organization for the administrative and employment affairs will create appropriate institutions and companies to implement the privatization program in those areas.

In six months time the Ministry of Roads and Transportation is to draft a procedural action plan that will show the way to the implementation.

* Problematic State of Industries Viewed

93LA0123B London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] Several days ago Mohammad Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian, minister of heavy industries, admitted that as the result of severe financial poverty Shirazeh Industries of Iran has disbanded, and that if thought is not given to canceling paralyzing customs tariffs and import regulations, the situation will get even worse. Nezhad-Hoseynian described Iran's industrial horizon as dark and sad because of the insistence on implementing the free economic system and reducing the value of the rial. He said: This change has caused prices to go up. He added: Iran's industries now need currency in circulation several times more than they did in the past.

The minister of heavy industries continued: The government banks are not giving enough loans to industries, and other than the automobile manufacturing industry, which sells its products in advance, in other sectors industries are faced with a shortage of currency in circulation.

Nezhad-Hoseynian added: The bad situation for industries began last April because the Central Bank ordered that payment of money for imported goods must be done through them. In short, this paper shuffling caused very serious new problems for most of the factories who meet their needs abroad.

Nezhad-Hoseynian noted: If a solution is not found to this, the wheels of Iranian industry will soon stop turning. The views of Nezhad-Hoseynian are completely consistent with recent press reports about firing thousands of workers from factories and warning about more firings in both the private and government sectors.

Last April new regulations were implemented about paying the price of imported goods through the Central Bank in order to limit imports, improve the quality of domestic products, maintain equilibrium and alleviate the crisis caused by Iran's accumulated short-term debt.

The government's reason for reducing the value of the rial up to 95.6 percent is to create a balance by encouraging domestic industries and to improve the quality of their products compared with foreign products.

Nezhad-Hoseynian said: The government's effort to control price increases in a specific framework in effect raised customs rates except for the automobile, and this has made Iran's industries quite vulnerable.

In conclusion, Nezhad-Hoseynian noted that several ministers are talking with officials in order to replace existing laws with new customs tariff regulations.

Fuel Prices To Remain Unchanged During Current Year

LD2707124193 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Prices for various types of oil products will remain unchanged till the end of the

current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 1994), according to the head of the Majles Oil Commission, Mohsen Yahyavi.

In an interview published by the morning daily HAM-SHAHRI Tuesday [27 July], Yahyavi further added that any rise in fuel prices should be made while taking social welfare into consideration.

He confirmed that there would be no price hike in oil products this year but added that once it increased, it would remove many problems. The official noted that the government was annually paying about dlrs. 10.5 million of subsidies for oil products and electricity.

However, Yahyavi said that subsidies on certain fuels which were less consumed by the public in general could be removed, adding that such products could be sold at higher prices to their consumers. "Fuel is very cheap in Iran", he stressed, "and selling prices are less than half of the cost for its production and transportation."

Yahyavi said that projects such as completion of oil pipelines from Bandar Abbas to Kerman in the south, reconstruction of installations in southern Mahshahr port city and increase in production capacity of Abadan refinery from 280,000 bpd [barrels per day] to 350,000 bpd were underway to help better distribution of fuel throughout the country.

Other projects, he noted, included full operation of Arak refinery in central province, laying 14-inch pipeline between Shahr-e Rey, in south of the capital, and Tehran and completion of Bandar 'Abbas oil refinery with daily production capacity of 232,000 barrels.

He attributed last year fuel shoratge to low domestic production and floods which hit several provinces throughout the country and washed away major pipelines.

This year, he stressed, with the projected increase in the capacity of the country's refineries, the previous amount of oil refined abroad would reduce from 270,000 barrels per day to 190,000 bpd.

First Phase of Arak Petrochemical Complex Completed

LD2607164493 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Arak, Central Province, July 26, IRNA—The first phase of Arak petrochemical complex was inaugurated here today.

Deputy Oil Minister Ahmad Rahgozar said the complex, the tenth of its kind in Iran, will market its products as of the end of September.

The annual capacity of the complex, he added, is expected to be 550,000 tons which will include polyaethylene, acetic acid, raw materials used in pharmaceutics and textiles, synthetic fibres, antifreeze, paints and adhesives.

The input into the complex during the first phase will be worth dlrs 60 million at international prices, and the output will be dlrs 300 million, he said.

The establishment of the complex, Rahgozar said, cost his ministry dlrs 1,940 million plus another rls 440 billion, which would turn over within the next four years in view of the value added of those products.

Rahgozar said 27 foreign and 350 Iranian contractors contributed to the implementation of the project.

130,000 tons of machinery and equipment were installed in the first phase in addition to 20,000 tons for the second phase of the complex, he said.

The complex comprises 14 processing units and auxiliary as well as general service sections, each equipped with the most advanced control system and integrated computer system.

The raw materials for the complex will come from the refineries in Isfahan and Arak, Rahgozar said.

* Qom Power Plant To Expand Capabilities

93LA0120F Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 30 Jun 93 p 10

[Text] Using a $165 million loan from the Central Bank, this gas power plant will develop in the future and will be converted to a compound cycle.

Qom—IRNA—1 Tir [22 Jun]. The first gas unit of the Qom power plant, with a capacity of 128.5 megawatts [MW], was brought into the circuit and officially put into service.

This power plant, which will ultimately be a compound cycle power station, in addition to supplying the needs of the Qom electrical power network, will transfer its production power to the nation's other places in need of it.

Engineer Mahmud Faturehchi, deputy for regional new construction in Tehran and executive officer of the Qom power plant, announced the above during a visit by news correspondents to this power plant. He said: By the end of the month of Tir [22 Jul] Unit 2 of this power station will be added to the network and Units 3 and 4 will be added by the end of the month of Shahrivar [22 Oct].

He said: The Qom Gas power plant project consists of four gas turbines, and the production capacity of each unit is 128.5 MW.

This power plant is capable of using two kinds of fuel, natural gas, and gas oil, for the production of electricity.

Installation and startup operations for this power plant were done by the Japanese Mitsubishi Company.

According to Engineer Faturehchi, it cost $139 million in foreign exchange to build this power plant, and about 1 billion tomans.

After the signing of a contract to buy and install four gas units at the Qom power plant, the Ministry of Energy,

using a $165 million loan from the World Bank, has decided to expand the power plant and convert it to a compound cycle.

The compound cycle section of the Qom power plant includes four heat recovery steam generators and two steam electricity producing units with a combined capacity of 200 MW.

The executive office of the Qom power plant said: Environmental considerations have been taken into account in converting this power plant to a compound cycle.

In conclusion, Engineer Faturehchi added: The primary fuel for this power plant is gas, but gas oil is now being used for its fuel, and it is unlikely that gas will be used by the time the other four units are put into operation, and the reason for this is the failure to implement the gas company's commitment to deliver gas.

* New Appointments to Various Offices Announced

93LA0120A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 23 Jun 93 p 4

[Text] Engineer Sadeq Afshar, deputy minister of roads and transportation and executive director of the Iran Railroad Company, appointed Hoseyn Farzad as general manager of the southern railroad region (Ahvaz), Qodratollah Afzali as general manager of the Arak railroad region, and 'Abbas Hajati as general manager of the northeast railroad region (Shahrud), and they went to work.

By order of Engineer Karampur, executive director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Postal Company, Mahmud Hasanzadeh was appointed director of the General Financial Post Office.

The general manager of public relations for the Voice and Vision Organization issued an order appointing Qodrat'ali Heshmatian as deputy director of the General Office of Public Relations in the first network of the Voice and Vision.

The public relations office of the Guardian Council reports that Ayatollah Ahmad Janati, secretary of this council, issued an order assigning the job of general manager of the Council of Guardians Organization to Hoseyn Ganji.

Agents of International Drug Smuggling Rings Arrested

LD2607165393 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Birjand, Khorasan Prov., July 26, IRNA—Eleven agents of three international drug smuggling rings were arrested here and in Nahbandan last week, prosecuter general of Qa'en, Birjand and Nahbandan, Hojjat ol-eslam Dolatabadi said here today.

He said the three had killed six law enforcement officials in a gun battle in Khusef of Birjand and another three in a state-owned vehicle on Tabas-Kerman road which they had shelled.

The official added the group had 30 gunmen with the latest in the military fashion and frequently engaged in armed robbery of innocent travellers and hold-up of people on the highways. They would also regularly take possession of the motor vehicles of their victims which they had driven off to neighboring Afghanistan where they exchanged them for narcotics.

According to the official the group had confessed to having engaged in six instances of dealings in narcotics which fed as much as five tons of opium into the drugs market.

Dolatabadi said seven guns and more than 17,000 cartridges had been seized from the group.

Intelligence Official on Arrest of MKO Members, 'Spies'

NC2607084293 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Jul 93 p 17

[Excerpts] Kerman, KAYHAN correspondent—The director general of Kerman's Intelligence Department has detailed several successful operations in dismantling bands of insurgents and smugglers and crimes committed by the members of these bands. He also stated that two bands of monafeqin [hypocrites; reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] and three foreign spies were arrested in the province. [passage omitted]

Ja'fari also detailed the discovery of arms smuggling bands, saying: After the disintegration of the Soviet Union and in the absence of Iraqi control of its border, many weapons were smuggled over the border and brought into Kerman by smugglers in the province. The Intelligence Department dismantled a very active band that was bringing in arms to the province from east Azerbaijan and arrested six of its members. Among the material confiscated from this band were periscopes, personnel carriers and tanks, binoculars—for night vision, self-propelled, and for use in trenches, infrared spyglasses, telescopes, RPG's, advanced telescopes with night vision with angle and range-finding glasses, and special devices that use oxygen [preceding word in English]. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the fight against monafeqin elements inside the country, Ja'fari said: Two such bands were discovered and dismantled in the province. The band members intended to mislead youths and to urge them to leave the country.

Ja'fari added: I would like to call on all families who are in contact with their children abroad to contact the Intelligence Department so that we can cooperate to bring back those who have repented for their acts.

Continuing, Ja'fari discussed the arrest of foreign spies and said: During the period, one Iraqi spy and two Indian spies were arrested and handed over to the province's judicial

authorities. He said: A government element from a neighboring country who was trying to infiltrate our government institutions on the orders of his country's intelligence service was also arrested in this connection. So were many others.

Commenting on bands that try to spread corruption among students, he said: A corrupt band that was in contact with people abroad and that was active in Kerman and Khorasan was identified and its members, who numbered over 100, were arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities.

Concluding, he thanked all the people for their cooperation with the Intelligence Department and stated: If anyone has any useful information he can telephone the news staff on 113, call 226333, or write to P.O. Box 58.

Opposition Radio Condemns Attacks on Iraqi Kurdistan

NC2607162493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 25 Jul 93

[Station commentary: "Another Crime Has Been Added to the Regime's Dossier"]

[Text] According to reports reaching the Voice of Iranian Kordestan, the inhuman aggressor regime of the Islamic Republic continues its aerial attacks on the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan and the bases of the opposition forces, especially of the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] in Iran. Last Thursday, it attacked the Komeleh [Communist Party] headquarters.

The reports state that the clerical regime's bombers launched their first attack at 0550 and the second attack at 0630 on the Komeleh base. Fortunately, no human losses were incurred. It is obvious that the antipopular clerical regime is in an abject and helpless state in its confrontation with the people and the peshmergas in Iranian Kordestan. Despite resorting to all kinds of ploys, it could not suppress the nationalistic and revolutionary sentiments of the strugglers on the path of freedom and could not hinder the revolutionary activities of the peshmergas. Since the beginning of spring this year, it has transformed the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan into an arena for its inhuman plots.

In the course of the past few months, the regime's military forces have sporadically, and at times incessantly, attacked the DPK's base with its cannons and katyushas. In addition, the regime has launched fierce attacks on the newly populated villages of Iraqi Kurdistan with heavy artillery. So far, the regime has killed a large number of defenseless people on the other side of the border and has inflicted heavy material losses on the people.

The Islamic Republic's regime has not contented itself with mere attacks and has committed overt aggression against Iraqi Kurdistan. Thus, it has ignored all international norms and even occupied a part of the territory of Iraqi Kurdistan. In the past, it has been proven that such pressure and conspiracies by the clerical regime not only do not even slightly affect the morale of the revolutionaries on the path of freedom or serve to undermine their ability and strength to continue their struggle, but in fact they instill in them greater strength so that they are even more inclined to rise up against the repressive and aggressor forces of the regime in the actual arena of the struggle, that is, inside Iranian Kordestan.

This time as well, the regime has seriously erred in its calculations. This is because the regime's forces have attacked the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan, and the regime's mercenaries will now have to face the difficult and heroic struggle of the people in the depths of the various parts of Kordestan.

The future will prove that neither cannon shelling, bombing, or killing people, nor any other plot of the regime will be able to impede the growth and proliferation of the struggle and the activities of the people and the peshmergas.

While vehemently condemning the bombing of the peshmergas' base by the Islamic Republic's regime, we hope such aggression will further coalesce the ranks of the people of Kordestan and motivate them to continue along the path of their struggle with greater zeal and fervor. The masses of Kordestan and the combatants on the path of freedom know fully well that the Islamic Republic will (?try to compensate for its failure) at home, by creating trouble abroad.

Undoubtedly, the regime's actions on the borders of Iraqi Kurdistan stem from the regime's utter abjectness and impotence. It is therefore necessary to barricade its efforts to salvage itself from this impasse and escalate our struggle against this regime.

Pakistan

Acting President Speaks on Elections, Foreign Policy

BK2607173393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1447 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Address to the nation by Acting President Wasim Sajjad; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. Today, while I am addressing you, I am deeply aware that Pakistan is passing through the most important and delicate phase of its history.

You are aware that as a result of the national consensus the national and provincial governments have resigned and assemblies have been dissolved. New elections are being held according to the Constitution at the beginning of October. A small cabinet has been set up at the center to run the daily affairs of the government and arrange for the elections. The same procedure will be adopted in the provinces. The aim is to run the government in the interim period without burdening the national exchequer, maintain continuity in national affairs, and provide the required administrative cooperation to the Election Commission to hold impartial elections. We have tried to

include people in the cabinet who are noncontroversial and respected, whose past has been without blemish, and who can discharge the duties required of their position with expertise and impartiality.

According to the Constitution, as Senate chairman, I have been given the honor to discharge the responsibilities of the president of Pakistan until the next elected president assumes office. Discharging my constitutional duties as the head of state is an honor as well as a major responsibility for me. But, I hope—rather I am confident—that the entire nation, including Pakistan's Senate, the Armed Forces, the administration, the political leaders, the national press, the religious scholars and theologians, the awakened people, and the new generation imbued with the spirit of service to the country will cooperate with me at this crucial stage. Their best wishes, positive expectations, and guidance will be a great asset for me. I am confident that with the help of God and your cooperation, we will be able successfully to discharge all our responsibilities, which have been assigned to me and to the government under the Constitution and law—by this I mean the conduct of elections in a totally impartial, free, and fair and transparent manner. I realize that this is a very difficult task, but I assure you that the interim government, with your cooperation, will definitely achieve this objective, God willing, and will ensure that the upcoming elections are conducted in a free, impartial, and fair atmosphere at all costs and in all conditions. This country's security, construction, progress, and prosperity depend on the holding of free, impartial, peaceful, and fair elections so that federal and provincial governments made up of people's representatives are formed, and that they enjoy the confidence and mandate of the entire nation and become the trustees of the democratic spirit and greater national and Islamic traditions and make Pakistan truly capable of entering the 21st century.

I am confident that the people of Pakistan, through their vote, will exercise their democratic right with full responsibility and in this process they will be guided by the consideration of the supreme national interest of the country and the nation.

My dear countrymen! Our country has been faced with a political and constitutional crisis for some time. If there is a silver lining in this political crisis, it is that its solution was found through a peaceful dialogue in accordance with the Constitution. All negative political analyses and speculations made in this context were proved wrong. In this connection, I pay tribute to the Armed Forces of Pakistan and their sagacious leadership, which is imbued with the spirit of service to the nation. It has given proof of its utmost responsibility and foresight at this critical juncture. It helped in finding a constitutional solution of this crisis while remaining within the jurisdiction of its duties of safeguarding the country's security.

The constitutional and democratic solution of this crisis has also made it clear that the democratic and constitutional system has taken strong roots in Pakistan and the democratic institutions are becoming stronger. God willing, the democratic process will continue to march forward with more vigor, confidence, and speed.

On this occasion, I consider it necessary to mention the existence of the Pakistan Senate as the symbol of the federation, as provided in the Constitution, and its important role in the continuity of the democratic institutions. Although the national and provincial assemblies have been dissolved, the Pakistan Senate continues to exist as a gift of our Constitution and as a symbol of the continuity of democracy. It is an institution which, in spite of the dissolution of the assemblies, will exist forever. The interim government is also accountable to the Senate for its performance. Our Senate comprises capable and experienced persons. Our Senate, in which all four provinces have equal representation, has set a high standard of people's representation and debate and discussion. I am confident that during this interim period the existence of this representative national institution will play an important role in keeping us on the right path and continue to guide the caretaker government in identifying the people's problems and the solutions to these problems.

On this occasion, I want to emphasize the importance of golden Islamic and democratic principles to settle bilateral disputes through tolerance, mutual understanding, and dialogue and strengthen the democratic process. These factors are the basis of a democratic system, and if they are not adopted with good spirit, sincerity, and all efforts, the democratic environment, and democratic culture cannot be established in the country. The right to differ is the spirit of democracy, but a civilized democratic culture does not allow mudslinging and personal attacks. The forthcoming elections in this context will be a trial for the entire nation. We should participate in the election campaign with a sense of responsibility and tolerance while remaining within the bounds of law and morality. In this connection, a great responsibility lies with all political parties, leaders, candidates, and their workers. I am also hopeful that everybody will fully pass this test of national responsibility, and the national elections to be held in October will prove to be a glorious chapter in our history.

My dear countrymen! Our Election Commission comprises the very experienced and respectable judges of the Supreme Court and high courts. Its constitution has been completed today. The chief of the Election Commission and its other members are legally and constitutionally fully independent and sovereign in conducting the elections. The elections are basically being held under the supervision of the judiciary. The Pakistan Armed Forces will provide all such facilities and assistance to the Election Commission that will make the elections clean and transparent.

During the elections, the military will play its due role in ensuring law and order. We will make sure that every voter is able to exercise his right of franchise freely and in a peaceful atmosphere. In light of past experiences, effective arrangements will be made to check bogus voting. The Election Commission is also examining the proposal under which initial results of the elections will be announced by

the returning officers on the spot. The Election Commission is reviewing all the useful proposals that have been forwarded from time to time by the political parties, leaders, and intellectuals to make the election process transparent and clean and to remove all kinds of doubts and suspicions about it. Any of the proposals that are found to be appropriate and practicable will be translated into action.

As far as the government's responsibility is concerned, we will extend full cooperation to the Election Commission and will make all legal, administrative, and financial arrangements necessary to make the elections free and impartial. Taking advantage of this opportunity, I would like to warn the administrative and election officials that any wrongdoing or lawlessness will not be tolerated. The entire nation expects that they will discharge their duties with total impartiality. I also want to emphasize that the elections, God willing, will be held in the early days of October at all costs. The elections will not be postponed in any event, in the wake of any demand or on any pretext. The interim governments at the federal and provincial levels will leave their offices after handing over their responsibilities to the elected representatives immediately after the elections.

My dear countrymen, maintaining law and order before and during the elections is certainly the basic responsibility of the government. The government will fulfill this responsibility at all costs, and as I said before, full cooperation of the Armed Forces of Pakistan will be sought in this regard.

But government measures alone will, perhaps, not help to achieve this objective fully. All political parties, leaders, intellectuals, journalists, and political workers will have to realize their national responsibilities in this regard and extend full cooperation to the Election Commission and the government agencies. The most important thing that is needed in this regard is that the election campaign should be conducted within the confines of the law, morality, and decency and in accordance with the principles of Islamic tolerance. There should not be any kind of destructive activities during the election rallies and processions. Quarrels and hooliganism should be avoided and arms should not be displayed to exhibit one's might and intimidate the opposing party. In short, the election campaign should be conducted in a fully disciplined, orderly, and civilized manner. I am confident that the entire nation, especially the political workers, will pay full attention to my submissions.

Our national press has to shoulder a heavy responsibility in this regard. Our press and the journalists have done a lot for the progress and strengthening of democracy. Some of them have borne severe losses in this struggle and offered major sacrifices.

I sincerely appeal to the national press and esteemed journalists on this occasion to realize their responsibilities at this critical juncture in the history of Pakistani democracy and cooperate with the government in maintaining peace and order, guide the nation, and try to present it correctly to it the viewpoints of various political parties. It is very important for the stability of our democratic system to ensure that the people have full faith in the election process and that the election results are above any sort of doubt and suspicion. The present elections in this respect constitute a challenge and a milestone for the whole nation.

It will be our wholehearted endeavor this time to make the election process transparent, free, and fair so that no scope is left for any doubt about the results. If we succeed in realizing this objective with your cooperation and by the grace of God, then we will be able to provide our future democratic system with a solid foundation which will allow the elected governments to implement peacefully their programs during their tenures.

Ladies and gentlemen, although holding free and fair elections is our basic objective and most of our attention will be devoted to realizing this objective, within this interim period, it will also be our effort to strengthen the foundations of the country's economy as much as possible. Probably, it is not possible for the interim government to make basic and far-reaching economic steps within this short period of time. But we would like to sincerely work for strengthening the economy as much as possible within the next three months. Fortunately, the interim government is being led by an acclaimed economist of our country, Mr. Moin Qureshi, whose capability and proficiency in economics is recognized throughout the world. I believe that the interim government under his leadership will take every possible step for the stability and development of the economy.

Some quarters are demanding important constitutional amendments and basic changes in the election system. The changes which the Election Commission considers possible and appropriate will certainly be done. But I am sure you will agree with me that basic changes should be made only when there is a national consensus on the issue. You will definitely agree with me that making a thorough change in the existing system within the short period of time at our disposal might not be possible. However, I believe that if, with appropriate changes, the people in authority and those responsible for conducting the elections perform their duties with honesty and sincerity, then there is no reason why the common complaints about elections should not be eliminated.

My dear countrymen, our foreign policy is based on peaceful coexistence, justice, and fair play and there is no scope for any sort of basic change in it. We will always strive for the development of our foreign relations on the basis of internationally accepted norms, territorial integrity, and noninterference in other's affairs. We want to live in peace and tranquillity with all countries, including India. But in no circumstances can we remain silent over India's inhuman atrocities on the Kashmiri Muslims. We will continue to raise our voice concerning the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri Muslims and the violation of human rights by the Indian forces there at all world forums and we will continue to extend to them all sorts of moral

and political support. We desire India to seek a solution to this issue through negotiations in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the UN resolutions, instead of resorting to oppression of unarmed Kashmiris. We are always ready for purposeful dialogue with India and invite it to take positive steps for the establishment of peace in South Asia.

We will continue to raise a voice along with the Islamic Conference Organization countries and other justice-loving countries of the United Nations against the inhuman atrocities being carried out against Bosnian Muslims and the trampling of their freedom and sovereignty. We will not refrain from providing whatever help possible to the oppressed Muslims of Bosnia. We have also made an offer to send our troops there under UN auspices to protect the Muslims and establish peace. We will also support, as ever, our Palestinian brethren in their historic struggle for justice and sovereignty. It will be our sincere endeavor in Afghanistan to see the stability of the government, which has been established with mutual understanding and reconciliation, and improvement of the law and order situation in that country, thereby enabling Afghan refugees to return to their homes with dignity as soon as possible. A stable government in Afghanistan and the prevalence of peace and order there is also very important for the development of close relations with the newly independent Islamic countries of Central Asia. We would also like to fully utilize the opportunity we have received after a century to promote our economic, historical, religious, and cultural ties with the Muslim brethren of Central Asia and to strengthen and stabilize these relations through the Economic Cooperation Organization as soon as possible.

Pakistan enjoys extremely cordial relations with Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, and other Islamic countries and will always strive to give more dimension and depth to these relations.

With China also, Pakistan enjoys deep, age-old ties. The friendship between the two countries has stood every test. This friendship, based on mutual respect and common interests, has developed as a result of mutual cooperation in political, economic, technical, and other fields. We are extremely eager to further promote and stabilize this friendly relationship and will wholeheartedly strive toward this end.

Pakistan and the United States have enjoyed relations of friendship and cooperation from the very beginning and we would like to further strengthen this friendship and cooperation. Pakistan and the United States can jointly play an important role for the promotion of peace and stability, economic development and prosperity in South Asia. We desire to promote similar relationships with other Western countries, including the European Community.

As far as the country's security and defense are concerned, there is a complete consensus and solidarity among the entire nation. Safeguarding Pakistan's independence and its territorial integrity is among our foremost and sacred duties. I assure you that even during the hustle and bustle of elections, the government and the Armed Forces of Pakistan will always remain alert to defend the country. In this context, the Armed Forces of Pakistan will enjoy the complete trust and cooperation of the interim government. Every inch of sacred Pakistani soil is dearer to us than our lives. We will not refrain from taking any step which is necessary for the defense and security of Pakistan.

Brothers and sisters, in conclusion, I would request that you remove any kind of dejection and uncertainty from your hearts. In the sphere of democracy, we are passing through a evolutionary process. There is no need now to worry about the political instability that existed in our country and the setbacks our democracy received in the past. The heartening thing is that the modern Islamic principles of popular support for governance, consultation, accountability, and the supremacy of the law and justice are fully ingrained in the democratic minds of our people. Dictatorship has never been considered good or tolerated here. We have always returned to the democratic path through struggle, and this time our democratic system has once again started to march forward on the constitutional path. God willing, we will come out of this interim period successfully. Pakistan's Islamic, democratic, and economic foundations will be strengthened. The people's confidence in the election process and the election results will be restored, and the reins of power will be handed to the elected representatives of the country.

I have no doubt that Pakistan's future is bright. God, as per the great leader [Muhammad Ali Jinnah], has endowed us with all kinds of resources. The dream of Pakistan's founders—to make it a great Islamic welfare state—will definitely come true. We should move forward collectively, forgetting all our misunderstandings and differences, to build a bright and promising future for Pakistan. May God guide and help us! Amen! Long live Pakistan!

AJK Prime Minister Says India Planning Attack

BK2307125293 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 23 Jul 93 p 10

[Text] Islamabad:—Taking advantage of [words indistinct] the plan to launch aerial and land attack on Pakistan and Azad Kashmir by September. This was stated by AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan while talking to journalists in an informed meeting in the Kashmir House.

He said that India can attack Sindh and Azad Kashmir to divert international attention from freedom movement in Kashmir. He further said that he has informed the US ambassador in Pakistan of his apprehensions in this regard. He said that Indian atrocities in Kashmir have crossed all limits, so much so that human rights associations world over have condemned India for violation of human rights in Kashmir. He said that India was feeling the pinch of the freedom movement and anything desperate can be expected from her.

Sardar Qayyum said that political commotion in Pakistan [words indistinct] the freedom movement in Kashmir as

anti-Pakistan forces were at work to sabotage political process in Pakistan through terrorist activities.

He said that there was no justification for opposition in AJK to launch a movement against his government. He supported the proposal to suspend all political activities in Azad Kashmir till the goal of freedom of Kashmir is achieved.

Former Army Chief Claims Nuclear Capability

PM2607142293 Paris LE MONDE in French 25-26 Jul 93 p 6

[Patrice de Beer report: "Islamabad Has Had Nuclear Weapons Since 1987"]

[Text] Pakistan successfully carried out its first nuclear test in 1987, the former chief of staff of the Pakistani Army revealed on Thursday, 22 July.

Answering questions from local daily AWAZ INTERNATIONAL, General Mirza Aslam Beg said that Islamabad "crossed the (nuclear—LE MONDE editor's note) line in 1987... very successfully carrying out laboratory tests. Nobody should doubt it," he explained, denying repeated reports to the effect that tests had been carried out in China—a country with which Pakistan has long had technological cooperation in the nuclear and ballistic spheres. "Our capacity to manufacture nuclear bombs is identical to that of India," which exploded its first nuclear device in 1974, the general added. The same day, former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who resigned a week ago, said he had been "threatened with physical elimination because of my position on the nuclear question." Referring to American pressures, he indirectly confirmed Gen. Aslam Beg's remarks, stating in particular: "I did not give in to those threats, because the nuclear program is linked to Pakistan's security and survival."

The fact that India has not invaded Pakistan "is solely due to our nuclear capability." It is obvious that he was not referring to the civilian nuclear potential of his country, which has until now always maintained—despite the accumulation of evidence to the contrary—that it was only developing this technology for peaceful purposes. The Indians and Pakistanis have still not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Pakistan's possession of the nuclear weapon was an open secret, which local officials scarcely even bothered to deny. For instance, in 1992, the Foreign Ministry spokesman admitted that Islamabad had "a certain capability in the nuclear sphere," but that its military program was "frozen" at its 1989 level. In 1988 Benazir Bhutto had stated that Pakistan would have had nuclear weapons in 1977 if her father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto—promoter of the "Islamic bomb"—had not been overthrown.

Neighboring India—without much sincerity since it was first to equip itself with nuclear weapons—and especially the United States have made no secret of their anxiety about Pakistani ambitions for many years. When the promises of the leaders in Islamabad lost all believability, Washington opposed the supply of equipment and technology enabling them to achieve their ends. In 1990, the Americans put an end to military aid to an old ally on which they had relied to help the anti-Soviet resistance in Afghanistan. More recently, they condemned China for supplying aid—and recently unassembled missiles—to Pakistan.

France, for its part, was tempted to sell Pakitan an irradiated fuel reprocessing plant but finally, and wisely, decided to abandon the plan at the end of the seventies. At the time, in 1979, an excessively curious French ambassador was beaten up near the Kahuta power station. That was when Islamabad was trying to complete its program by any possible means.

In 1988 Bonn suspended the activities of the German firm Nukem, which was suspected of supplying fissionable material to Pakistan and to Libya. The latter was once accused of financing the Pakistani nuclear program.

Things are now clear, even if the interim government in Islamabad has not yet admitted anything. But this clarity merely strengthens the threat of nuclear proliferation on the Indian subcontinent. This is probably the only region in the world in which the risk of a conflict between two nuclear powers remains. This is especially true because ethnic and religious disputes there have recently intensified, particularly in Kashmir, over which the two countries are quarreling.